



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic States Meet To Coordinate Aid for Bosnia

Participants Named

LD2711223795 *Tehran IRNA in English*
2135 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 27 (IRNA) — Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister, Kamel Ja'afar [name and position as received], and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal-International Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, met here on Monday [27 November] to survey ways for sending assistance of Islamic states to the oppressed people and government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The two day meeting of the senior political and military experts of the Islamic Donor Group for Bosnia will be held in Tehran on Tuesday presided over by Malaysia.

The Malaysian deputy foreign minister along with the chief of the joint staff of Malaysia arrived in Tehran on Saturday to participate in the meeting of the Islamic Basij Group.

The countries participating in the Tehran session are Iran, Bosnia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, Maghreb, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iran's Velayati Gives Address

LD2811141795 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1030 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second meeting of the aid for the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina mobilization group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] opened this morning at the Foreign Ministry's office for political and international studies with a speech by Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati, the [Iranian] foreign minister.

Our country's defense minister and senior diplomatic officials from foreign ministries and the chiefs of joint staff from 12 Islamic countries will be holding discussions and exchanging views about the economic and military reconstruction of Bosnia and assistance from international laws [as heard] to it.

In his speech, Mr. Velayati referred to the ways in which Islamic countries can assist the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: The period of reconstruction after war has placed heavy burdens on the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It will not be possible for a government, which was until recently caught up in an unjust war, to master this on its own.

The foreign minister said that one of the main anxieties felt by people and governments in times immediately following wars concerned health issues, such as the production of medicine and carrying out vaccinations. He said: I believe that, in view of its capabilities in the health sector, Iran will also be able to participate in infrastructural medical projects. He announced that Iran's Red Crescent Society can extend the required assistance in establishing small health clinics in various regions [of Bosnia-Herzegovina]. He also explained: We have also asked the officials of the Construction Jihad [Ministry] to take fundamental steps toward carrying out infrastructural projects, including rural production [as heard], building roads and improving the fertility of the land.

After Mr. Velayati's speech, Mr. [Mohammad] Foruzandeh, the defense minister, delivered a speech in which he said: Since resolution 1021 of the UN Security Council allows the lifting of the arms embargo in 90 and [as heard] 180 days, it seems as if a realistic understanding of the existing conditions should be achieved in order to make the best use of time and carry out the required measures. [sentence as heard]

Further on Velayati's Remarks

LD2811143895 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1145 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — The second session of the aid mobilization group [AMG] of Islamic countries opened in Tehran Tuesday [28 November] with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati delivering an inaugural speech. Reiterating the Islamic Republic's support for the government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Velayati urged Muslim states to further contribute to meeting the requirements of Bosnia during its reconstruction era. Velayati said that during the first AMG session held in Istanbul, the Islamic Republic of Iran had undertaken substantial commitments which are still valid.

On recent Bosnia peace agreement, Velayati said that in Iran's view, although the agreement failed to meet all demands of the Bosnian Republic and inflicted losses on Bosnian Muslims, it hopes that because the agreement can put an end to current bloodshed and initiate reconstruction, it would pave the way for a final and just settlement of the crisis.

Despite the ceasefire, Bosnia's requirements in political, economic and military domains have yet to be met and therefore it is incumbent upon Islamic countries to meet those needs and to encourage other powerful members of the international community to contribute to Bosnia's reconstruction efforts, he said.

The Iranian foreign minister said that the need to create military balance in the Balkans to ensure a durable peace in Bosnia is out of question, and to this end, the participants of the Tehran meeting should mobilize all assistance of Islamic countries for this purpose in compliance with Security Council Resolution 1021.

The Iranian foreign minister also said that taking legal action against war criminals and punishing them was among effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such crimes. He added that for this purpose, helping the Bosnian government meet its legal needs was inevitable.

"The message that this meeting should convey is that we as members of a single Islamic ummah are all sensitive to the future and prosperity of other members," Velayati pointed out.

The Islamic countries which stood by the Bosnian nation during the war, will do their best to actively participate in all reconstruction, economic and military plans of that republic, he said. The foreign minister also reiterated that fact that Bosnia brothers and sisters, having received various financial, political and military assistance from Islamic countries and been supported by the Islamic ummah, managed to defend their homeland, identity and culture.

"We have gathered together in Tehran to mobilize our assistance for the cause of Bosnia and this will prove effective only when we exert our efforts and planning in the same direction that the Bosnian government will draw for the future of its nation," he said.

During the two day session, the deputies foreign ministers for international affairs and army chiefs of staff from Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Turkey, Pakistan, Maghreb, Bosnia, Egypt, Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are to explore ways of helping Bosnia with its economic and military reconstruction projects and cooperation with the republic in domain of international law.

Also addressing the audience, the Bosnian army chief of staff, Rasim Delic saying that the Dayton peace accord was unjust for Bosnian Muslims, called on Islamic countries to increase their assistance particularly in the military area, to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said that Bosnia gained less than what it was supposed to get and many regions belonging to Bosnia were ceded to the Serbs.

"In fact we have gained what we had already taken and preserved through our military forces. We don't know what the future will be because the unjust peace may cause fresh clashes in the future," he said.

The Bosnian army chief of staff said that under present circumstances Bosnia-Herzegovina should continue to be an strategic region for all Islamic countries and these (Islamic) states should increase their political and military aid to Bosnia so as to alleviate the pressures being exerted on it.

Underlining the need to create a military balance in the Balkans to ensure a durable peace, he said that not only Muslim countries but also all other countries of the world should help Bosnia achieve military balance in the Balkans.

Later, the chairman of the session, Ja'afar Kamel of Malaysia announced the readiness of all Islamic states to extend all kinds of political and military assistance to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Iran's Rafsanjani: 'Islamic Duty' To Help

LD2911094095 Tehran IRNA in English
2004 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA — [Iranian] President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today addressing the second session of the aid mobilization group of Islamic countries for Bosnia said the efforts of the Muslim world for removing the difficulties of the Bosnian people and carrying out reconstruction projects in that country is an "Islamic duty".

He added that even in times of peace the Muslim countries should not feel indifferent towards their brethren in Bosnia.

Praising the Islamic countries for their unilateral move to invalidate the U.N. arms embargo on aggressed Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rafsanjani called the decision an effective move in the recent international developments in the Balkan region.

"If the Islamic countries' Contact Group had not made concerted efforts to expose the atrocities against the Bosnian people, possibly the world communities even at the present level would not have paid heed to the rights of the Bosnians and would have still ignored their rights," Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani stated.

The decision by the Islamic countries Contact Group to invalidate the embargo was taken earlier this year, after months of lobbying in vain with the U.N. Security Council to lift its arms embargo.

The Contact Group is made up of Iran, Turkey, Maghreb, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Rafsanjani, referring to the critical situation in the Balkans and the lack of balance of power in the region,

said the Islamic world hopes that real peace and stability will eventually prevail in Bosnia.

He added that all Muslim states were duty-bound to coordinate efforts to rebuild Bosnian economy and technology, and to help compensate the destructions in that Muslim country, so that the Bosnian people preserve their defence readiness in case a new aggression took place against them.

Besides host Iran, the other countries attending the session are Bosnia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kuwait, Maghreb, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Before the president's speech, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati gave a brief report on the two-day session and the ways adopted to mobilize assistance for the Bosnian people.

Jordan 'Ready' To Render Aid

LD2911153295 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1157 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA — Jordan's Foreign Ministry director general, Ibrahim al-Naghuzi on Wednesday [29 November] described the second gathering of the aid mobilization group of Islamic countries for Bosnia as successful, saying Islamic countries are resolute to render any military, political and economic aids to the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Talking to IRNA on Wednesday, al-Naghuzi said the gathering surveyed all necessary short and medium term plans to be implemented in Bosnia and decided on execution of the plans in less than one month.

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry official commenting on "Dayton" peace plan, said that Jordan has supported the Bosnian peace plan in Dayton and that under present conditions one cannot say for sure the peace plan would succeed if uncertainty hanging over the commitment of conflicting parties to implement the provisions of the agreement.

Jordan's Foreign Ministry director general referring to his country's aid to the Bosnian government said Jordan has so far sent food, medicine and military assistance to Bosnia and is now ready to offer more assistances.

Al-Naghuzi said King Husayn has recently announced his readiness to finance the reconstruction and renovation of all mosques in Bosnia-Herzegovina from his personal account. He stressed that his country is ready to render any military aid to Bosnia and even send forces to train the Bosnian army.

The second gathering of the aid mobilization group of Islamic countries for Bosnia-Herzegovina opened in Tehran on Tuesday with participation of 13 members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and is to end conclude work on Wednesday.

Bosnian Delegation Attends Aid Meeting

AU2911154895 *Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian* 1400 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second session of the Commission for the Mobilization of Potential for Help Bosnia-Herzegovina has begun in Tehran. This session was also attended by Rasim Delic, commander of the General Staff of the Army of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Muharem Cero, minister for refugees in the Government of the Republic and the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Ivica Misic, our ambassador to the United Nations.

The session was chaired by the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who stressed the readiness of his country to help the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives U.S. Consul General Abington

JN2911151195 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1400 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat will receive representatives of Palestinian political forces and movements at the Presidency headquarters in Gaza tomorrow.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President 'Arafat and his spokesman, told Voice of Palestine that the meeting will discuss the draft law on the Palestinian legislative elections.

The National Authority's cabinet delayed final endorsement of the elections law until completing discussions of the remarks presented on the law by the patriotic and Islamic Palestinian factions and parties.

Meanwhile, President 'Arafat received U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington at the Presidency headquarters in Gaza this afternoon. Talks dealt with latest developments of the peace process, especially concerning the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles on redeployment of the occupation forces outside the Palestinian populated centers in the West Bank.

Presidency Secretary General Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim received the French consul-general at his office in Gaza this afternoon. Talks dealt with latest developments of the peace process and Palestinian-French relations.

Two Candidates To Run Against 'Arafat in Elections

TA2911154095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES
in English 24 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Peter Dickie]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In a surprise development, Ishaq al-Tamimi, a businessman from Hebron, announced his decision to oppose 'Arafat for the presidential position Friday, November 17. Al-Tamimi, 40, is relatively unknown in Palestinian political circles.

A prominent figure from Jerusalem, who prefers to remain anonymous, has also decided to run for the presidential position, according to Palestinian sources. The sources said that the candidate is independent and has made a formal application to the Election Committee. His name will be announced once all technical and legal procedures are completed. He is the second person to announce his intention to stand against Yasir 'Arafat.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi declared November 21 that he would not stand for president but would run as a candidate for the National Council. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Denounces Anti-Registration 'Campaign'

JN2611100495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian official in charge of the Palestinian file, has denied rumors that Jerusalemites with blue identity cards would lose their right to citizenship if they registered for the legislative elections.

Al-Husayni condemned the tendentious campaign launched by some people in occupied Jerusalem to incite citizens not to register for the upcoming legislative elections. He said this campaign is an attempt to undermine the Arab identity of the city, and serves the interests of the Israeli occupation authorities.

In a related development, the Palestinian Information Ministry has called on all Jerusalemites who have blue identity cards to register for the upcoming Palestinian legislative elections. The ministry stressed that in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli agreement regarding the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement and the elections law, registering for the elections will not adversely affect the civil rights they are entitled to with the blue identity cards.

Cited on Residents' Election Role

MM2911151395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 29 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Mahmud Abu-'Id: "Al-Husayni Criticizes Palestinian Electoral System, Stresses He Will Participate in the Elections as a Voter and Not a Candidate"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — The decision by Faysal al-Husayni, [Palestinian] official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, not to participate in the elections of the legislative assembly — scheduled to be held on 20 January — for the Jerusalem district, has caused some wide-ranging questions to be raised in the streets of Jerusalem.

This, however, has not changed al-Husayni's position. In response to a question by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on his reasons for not participating in the elections, he said: "I shall participate in these elections, but only as a voter casting a vote in the ballot box."

Al-Husayni added: "This decision does not mean that I shall relinquish my role of serving Jerusalem and working on the projects under my supervision." Al-Husayni criticized the electoral system which divided the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip into 16 electoral districts, and said that it should have been one district only.

Al-Husayni's announcement came after a series of meetings held by the Fatah Central Committee, of which he is a member. The committee took several decisions with regard to forming a leading committee headed by Sakhr Habash (Abu-Nizar) to supervise the registration of voters and manage the Fatah electoral campaign, looking after both its electoral program and the selection of its election candidates.

The Central Committee agreed in its meetings held in Gaza to act as a permanent supervisory committee for the elections, branching into subsidiary committees whereby Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) would be in charge of political affairs, Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala') the finance committee, Nabil Sha'th the subsidiary information committee, Intisar al-Wazir (Umm-Jihad) the subsidiary social affairs and women committee, and al-Husayni and al-Agha the subsidiary organization committee in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In this context, the Central Committee selected six of its members to participate in the elections. They are: Abu-'Ala' for the Jerusalem area — it should be mentioned that Abu-'Ala' is a resident of the Abu-Dis district of East Jerusalem, which has a population of 20,000; Tayib 'Abd-al-Rahim and Hakam Bal'awi in the Tulkarm area

(residents of the area); and Nabil Sha'th, Umm-Jihad, and al-Agha for the Gaza Strip.

Al-Husayni stated that the elections will be held as scheduled on 20 January, but said that the powers of the elected legislative assembly will be limited by the agreements concluded with the Israelis. He stressed that "this council will not be able to cancel the articles of the Palestinian National Charter, and that the authority to do so will be the responsibility of the Palestine National Council, which has the power to decide in this matter."

On the issue of the Jerusalem residents' participation in the elections, al-Husayni said: "Their participation will not affect any of their rights, be they insurance or permanent residence, which are advantages that the residents of occupied Jerusalem enjoy, in contrast to residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." He added: "Some people are spreading rumors to scare the Jerusalem residents off with regard to the consequences of their participation in the Palestinian elections." [passage omitted]

PNC Members Discuss Elections Law, End Meeting
JN2911160995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1400 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Report by Rashind Hilal in Ramallah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in the West Bank concluded their meeting a short time ago. The meeting began this morning at the conference hall in al-Birah Municipality, chaired by acting PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun.

The PNC members discussed several important topics led by the draft law on the legislative elections and the relationship between the PNC and the elected legislative council.

On the most prominent results of the PNC meeting, al-Za'nun told our radio that the explanatory memorandum on the elections law has been favorably received, as has the wise call for not allowing PNC members to hold membership in the next legislative council, and the proposal that the PLO Executive Committee members should not nominate themselves.

Al-Za'nun hailed the way that the law deals with state employees — namely, that they should resign before elections. They can then resume their duties by a special decision of the Council of Ministers.

As for the military cadres, al-Za'nun said the PNC said they should tender their resignation before nomination.

The remarks made by the PNC meeting will be presented to the Palestinian Council of Ministers meeting that will convene next Saturday.

It is worth noting that a PNC member can nominate himself for the legislative elections, however, if he loses, his PNC membership will be canceled.

Fatah Central Committee Presidential Candidates Named

TA2611075995 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH
in Arabic 22 Nov 95 p 17

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that the Fatah Central Committee members who will run in the elections are: Intisar al-Wazir [Umm-Jihad], Ahmad Quray' [Abu-'Ala'], al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim [Abu-al-'Abd], Hakam Bal'awi, Zakariya al-Agha, and Nabil Sha'th.

'Vigilance' Ahead of Elections, Final-Status Talks Urged

JN3011102195 Amman THE STAR in English
30 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Bashir al-Barghuthi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Public interest in the elections to the Palestinian self-rule council is quite legitimate. Although the official schedule of the election campaign hasn't been fixed yet, the campaign itself is gaining momentum already, through the official and semi-official media.

However, voters should not let their involvement in the elections lead them to turn a blind eye to the fragile nature of the peace process. This is a bitter fact that has emerged in the aftermath of the assassination of Israel's prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Implementation is pending one vote of the Knesset members who support the government, or members of the military establishment, or even the requirements of expanding the coalition basis of the government by some religious parties. Indeed, a situation as such is unacceptable. It puts the fate of the Palestinian and the future of the negotiations on the final status at stake and subjects them to the whims of one Knesset member, or to the prime minister's state of mind and his calculations for the forthcoming elections.

Palestinian negotiators and officials of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) should reconsider their calculations. As in the past, we continue to call for an intensive vigilance towards the dangers of Israel's plans of isolating the Palestinian side and of excluding the direct impact of the Arab and world factor on the election course. We call on the utilization of the experience of Syria and of continuity with its procedures.

The direct involvement of the co-sponsors in the negotiation process, as well as their reminder of the pledges

made before the Madrid Conference, and the assurances of American support that were made by the then secretary of state James Baker, are promises which should be kept. In view of the co-sponsors' falling behind their commitments, the European Union's role should be sought and activated in political terms rather than leaving it to shadow the economic initiatives.

Some PNA officials favor the European economic role so much that they have forgotten Europe's paramount important political role. Of no less importance is the reactivation of the Arab role which really supports the Palestinian cause. Linking the ongoing normalization process between some Arab countries and Israel, is a true test of the strength of this support. The Arab world will pass the test if it can remain united during the negotiations on the Palestinian track towards the implementation of the UN resolutions to secure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

However, the restoration of Arab solidarity has to go beyond mere show of support through economic assistance to the PNA. Arab countries must support Palestinian concern in tackling the issue of negotiation on the final status. The outstanding issue can no longer be ignored, specially under the present situation in Israel. The flirting manoeuvres of the Labor Party with the extreme right circles is meant to expand the grass-root base of the Israeli government. Everybody knows that it is the Palestinians who will be asked to pay the price for the success of such attempts. If Peres believes that the expansion of his government is necessary for his negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians, it is all the more necessary for the PNA to use the same card.

The PNA course of negotiations has led to controversial results with former statements of its officials and with their interpretations of Oslo II. Therefore, any coming agreement would presumably be more fruitful than preceding ones.

Decisions-makers in the PNA in particular have to review their calculations and better prepare themselves for the final status negotiations scheduled to start in a few months. They have to see the way and themes which strengthen their internal situation and Arab Islamic and international alliances. They should map out all factors which can help them prevent any Israeli party from dealing with them separately. They must also be aware of policies that boost their own governmental position by making some concessions to the extreme right, while looking ahead to winning the future Knesset elections.

The writer is the general secretary of the Palestinian People's party.

Officials Said Targeted by Israelis, Iranians

*JN2911155495 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1500 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority's Presidency, has asserted that Israeli ultrarightists and Iranian agents are planning to assassinate Palestinian officials.

'Abd-al-Rahim indicated that Palestinian security organs informed Israeli authorities of the plan to assassinate Yitzhaq Rabin a few weeks before the assassination.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Said Holding Secret Contacts With Iraq, Iran
TA2811153795 *Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic*
27 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned from informed sources that secret contacts are under way between Israel and a number of Arab countries and Iran. The sources say that one of the oil princes is mediating between Tel Aviv and Tehran and between Baghdad and Tel Aviv and that this prince has cordial relations with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

The sources add that a Jewish millionaire who resides in an Arab country is playing a role in these contacts, which aim at the signing of peace agreements.

IDF, Palestinian Controversy Sent to Committee
TA3011080695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A controversy has surfaced between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers and Palestinian Police officers in Hebron. The Palestinians are demanding that the IDF remove all roadblocks in the city, including those around Bet Hadassah, and that it open the wholesale market downtown. The IDF officers are saying, however, that they will not compromise at the expense of the security of the Jewish settlers in Hebron. The Palestinians intend to pass the controversy on to the Supreme Steering Committee — headed by Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] — for resolution.

Algeria

FIS's Haddam: Criticism of Kebir 'Misinterpreted'
MM3011103195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
29 Nov 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Haddam Believes His Criticism of Kebir Was Misinterpreted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — Anouar Haddam, head of the parliamentary delegation of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], yesterday said that his criticism of Shaykh Rabah Kebir, head of the FIS Executive Committee, "has given rise to the wrong interpretations."

He stated that "the media in Algeria and abroad have misinterpreted the statement issued by the parliamentary delegation in response to brother Rabah Kebir's letter to General (Liamine) Zeroual, giving it erroneous explanations which the delegation did not intend in an attempt to sidetrack Algerian and international public opinion from the fundamental issues addressed by the statement."

He added: "We reaffirm to our people, who are enduring the regime's control, that our statement had no other objective than to reaffirm the known positions of the FIS's fundamental line, as expressed by FIS leader Shaykh Abassi Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj." He summarized it as follows: "Not to give legitimacy to the ruling regime...whatever electoral farces it undertakes. It is neither fair nor wise to judge the Algerian people by elections held by a military regime, and devoid of all international criteria for free and fair elections." He pointed out that the FIS's position reaffirms "the constant readiness to sit down at the negotiating table for a comprehensive and just solution which would make it possible to effectively restore constitutional legitimacy."

He stressed to "our dear people and our partners in the National Covenant that the FIS still views this historical covenant as the only way to achieve a peaceful, just, comprehensive, and lasting solution, in order to achieve a peaceful life for the Algerian people within the context of genuine pluralism, and of genuine security and lasting stability for the region."

Sadi 'Satisfied' With Election Results

MM2811141995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Nov 95 p 6

[Interview with Said Sadi, leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, by Amir Taheri in Algiers; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Taheri] The election campaign was exhausting. How do you feel now?

[Sadi] I am happy and satisfied. The Algerian people were given the opportunity to express their opinion after decades of living under a one-party system and four years of violence.

[Taheri] You pointed before the election to the possibility of a second round of elections in which you would compete with President Liamine Zeroual.

[Sadi] That was my analysis of conditions then. Frankly, no one had expected Algerian voters to go to the polling stations in such numbers. Nearly 75 percent of the voters cast their votes. No one was able then to predict how many votes Liamine Zeroual would get!

[Taheri] Where did he get all those votes?

[Sadi] From citizens who are seeking to live in freedom and security. Voters looked on him as the state's candidate, the candidate of the Armed Forces, which are responsible for the country's security, the candidate capable of uprooting terrorism and restoring life to normal in the country.

[Taheri] Are you trying to say that his program did not play a significant role in his victory?

[Sadi] I did not say that. Zeroual is honest and seeks good for everyone. However, the programs he presented to the voters are very weak. They were drawn up by some bureaucrats who see the people as one of the government's institutions. At any rate, citizens did not vote for Zeroual because of his program. Besides, many of the democrats who had planned to vote for me voted for Zeroual to inflict a heavy defeat on those who mix politics with religion. And some members of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] voted for Zeroual despite the FLN leadership's call to boycott the elections.

[Taheri] You said you are happy with the election results. I do not know why you are happy. You came third and obtained only 9 percent of the votes, mostly from tribal voters. It can be said that Nouredine Boukrouh received more support because the votes he obtained came from the various regions of Algeria.

[Sadi] That is your view of the situation. But let us examine the results thoroughly: I was the only candidate who pushed Zeroual into second place in three provinces. And the votes cast for my party increased fivefold compared with the 1991 elections.

Even in the regions which are supposed to be opposed to my ideas, such as Blida, I obtained thousands of votes. My strength was clear in the capital, as I obtained double the number of the votes obtained by the Socialist Forces in 1991. I have won morally, because I was the first to

demand that presidential elections be held. The pointers given by the elections, whether for us in the country or for the world as a whole, are the most important thing in the whole issue.

[Taheri] And what are these pointers?

[Sadi] That there are three major political groups in Algeria. The first is represented in the government establishment, which includes the Armed Forces, official circles, public sector companies, the unionist organizations supportive of the government, and some sectors of society which do not wish to embark on any political adventure at present. Their candidate was Liamine Zeroual, who won the elections. The second group, comprising the fundamentalists, is represented by Mahfoud Nahnah. They represent about 25 percent of the voters — the proportion of votes he obtained in the elections. The situation in the country is now like that in Turkey, Jordan, and many other states, as the fundamentalists could not secure the support of more than 25 percent of the population. In 1991 the fundamentalists won more votes because of rigging, the ballot boxes were filled [beforehand] and names of the dead were used. As for the third group, that is the democrats, whom I represent. They have been given the opportunity for the first time to present their program to the Algerian people. I believe that we represent the great majority of the people. Now that the elections have been held, the political situation in Algeria should become normal. And we should from now on acknowledge the fact that the only way to change conditions should be through elections, not military coups or a gathering of former selfish or opportunist politicians. No one should be allowed in the future to rig elections. If I fail in honest elections, I must accept the results. In the recent elections Zeroual received the support of the current world order, while Nahnah received the support of Islamic nationalism. I was the only candidate that relied on popular support.

[Taheri] It seems that you regard Nahnah as one of the fundamentalists. Is that not unfair to him?

[Sadi] Not at all. He is fundamentalist, he is deputy chairman of the Muslim Brotherhood, he believes in Islamic nationalism, and he seeks to impose a specific system on Algerian society by force.

[Taheri] But you do the same when you talk about secularism and a Western-style pluralistic democracy.

[Sadi] I am not associated with any nationalist movement. Democracy means the people's right to issue legislation to organize their affairs the way they want, and the right to reject ready-made models. The Algerian people are a Muslim people, and Islam is the state's religion, as stipulated by the law, so what is the confusion?

[Taheri] I asked Nahnah before the elections whether he would support you if you competed with Zeroual in a second round. Do you know what his answer was? Nahnah said: "Why not?" He is one of the candidates boycotting the past. It seems that the shaykh is more tolerant than you, doctor.

[Sadi] Nahnah voting for me?! I cannot imagine that. If he said that, he must have made some devilish calculations. Maybe he thought that removing a civilian president like me would be easier than removing a military man like Zeroual when the fundamentalists have the opportunity to pounce on power.

[Taheri] Do you mean that Nahnah is not sincere in his commitment to pluralism and the elections?

[Sadi] Maybe he was sincere as an individual, and I respect his statement. But what about the forces behind him? And what about the remnants of the Islamic Salvation Front who rushed to support him first to obtain the required signatures in order to become a candidate and then to mobilize public opinion in his favor? Are these people qualified in pluralism? Are these fundamentalists not seeking to use the elections as a means to seize power in order to destroy the elections as a whole later? Maybe Nahnah has decided to divert to the democracy road. I sincerely hope that he will do so. But that can only be determined after the passage of enough time. We will watch his behavior and that of his party from now until the parliamentary elections.

[Taheri] What things do you want Zeroual to do as soon as possible?

[Sadi] The economy should be given utmost priority. There is an urgent need to create job opportunities, especially for the unemployed. I have submitted a number of proposals which, if adopted by the state, are bound to produce quick results.

[Taheri] You are focusing on the economic issues. What about political and social issues?

[Sadi] We will not succeed in settling social and political problems unless we tackle economic problems. We need to achieve some progress at the economic level before the next parliamentary elections are held. If we do not achieve that, we could be confronted by turmoil from the masses and a social explosion, enabling the extremists to exploit the situation in their favor. However, this does not mean that we stand with our hands tied in the social and political spheres. Our schools need reforms, and we have to reinforce the position of women in society and provide more freedom for the media. The state television is assassinating democracy in this country every day, because it is used as a cheap propaganda tool, exactly the way it is used

by dictatorial regimes. We must turn television into a free pluralistic institution not subject to the practices of a one-party system. We must also reexamine the Constitution in order to ensure a better balance among the three branches of power, specifically by defining the powers granted to the president.

[Taheri] You said nothing about the parliamentary elections.

[Sadi] There is a general agreement that those elections should be held as soon as possible, specifically next year. We will continue to put pressure on the government to get it to comply with the timetable. We must also amend the election law through debates and consultations among the political parties. We do not want any rush, in order not to adversely affect the other conditions required for pluralistic parliamentary elections to be followed by municipal elections in 1997. We will continue to use the election method at all levels.

[Taheri] Do you expect the formation of a new government?

[Sadi] Of course. The worst thing that could happen is to keep the technocrat group. Running the country's affairs is a political activity. A minister should be a politician who has his own convictions, ideas, and the ability to secure support for the programs he seeks to implement. The government is a political institution, not a bureaucratic organ that needs only a number of technocrats. The president must form his government away from any factional considerations.

[Taheri] Will you request an official position in the next government?

[Sadi] No. My task at present is limited to building my popular base. It is better at this stage to let Zeroual implement his program. I will submit an alternative program in the next elections.

[Taheri] What are the things that Zeroual should not do?

[Sadi] First of all, he should not fall into the political "dialogue" trap. The elections have been held and the people have clearly expressed their wishes. The president of the republic must be vigilant and work to apply the stipulations of the Constitution, regulations, and laws, ensuring that they are respected. He should work to achieve the country's interests at all levels.

[Taheri] So you do not support the idea of holding a dialogue with the "National Covenant" parties.

[Sadi] Of course not. Why should the president engage in a dialogue with political parties and groups?

[Taheri] Maybe to return these parties and groups to political life in the country.

[Sadi] And who is preventing them from doing so? With regard to the outlawed party (the [Islamic] Salvation Front), it cannot set foot on the country's political scene until it recovers its legitimacy — which is to be decided by the judiciary. As for the "Rome group," allied with the dissolved party, it can perform political activities because it belongs to legitimate and recognized parties. However, these parties decided to support the terrorists and boycott the presidential elections. So if they want to run in the next parliamentary elections they can do so. What is the president going to discuss with them?

[Taheri] What are your proposals as regards amending the election law?

[Sadi] We need a system under which "proportional representation" is applied. I cannot define the features of such a system now, because it depends on consultation and agreement among the political parties, as well as the approval of the government and the Transitional Council later. The president must not allow himself to be a party to the political maneuvers on which some parties could embark.

[Taheri] What will happen if the president decides to set up his own party?

[Sadi] I do not think he will do that. It would be a mistake if he embarked on such a step. Parties cannot be set up by decree. Those who called for his election and were active in supporting him come from various political tendencies. I do not think they all belong to one political party. Even if such a party is going to be set up, its leadership, not Zeroual, should engage in a dialogue with the other political parties and groups.

[Taheri] Those opposed to the presidential elections claim that your candidacy was aimed at fragmenting the Socialist Forces Front, and that you are seeking to replace Hocine Ait Ahmed as the most influential tribal leader.

[Sadi] That is the logic of losers. I confirm to you that many of the votes I obtained came from supporters of the Socialist Forces Front, who called for my election, and I am grateful to them. I would like to point out here that I am currently making contacts with this Front to forge a broader democratic alliance to include the other parties and groups. I presented my own program and did not try to seize any position occupied by others. In fact I did not at all deviate from the etiquette of courtesy in my relationship with Ait Ahmed.

[Taheri] Will your democratic alliance include Nouredine Boukrouh?

[Sadi] I do not think so. I respect Mr. Boukrouh as a person, and he is entitled to adhere to what he believes

is right. But he talks of the establishment of an Islamic state. As for myself, I am secular. I believe that religion is a private matter that should be left to individuals and their conscience.

[Taheri] What is your opinion of the accusation leveled at you, namely that you actually represent only the regional aspirations of the Berbers?

[Sadi] I am Algerian, and I am proud of it. You should have come to Oran to see for yourself the largest election rally the country has ever seen. Is Oran a tribal city? I receive support throughout the country. My popularity will expand because I call for democracy, pluralism, and secularism. But at the same time I believe that Amazight [Berber language] is an integral part of our national identity, hence it should be allowed to develop and to contribute to the country's culture. What is wrong with that? I must admit that I have learned a great deal from the election campaign. And I am confident that the other candidates too have learned some lessons. I now have popular support in every province and city. The democratic movement will be built on this support to embrace all Algerians wishing to sever their links with the former tyrannical regime without falling into the trap set for them by the reactionaries in the name of religion. At present we are among the ranks of the opposition, but tomorrow will belong to democracy in Algeria and the other Arab and Islamic states. Nothing can destroy the fundamentalists on the political scene except democracy.

Emergency Detention Centers Closed

LD2911144095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The last detention center of In Amguel, in Tamanrasset Province, has been closed down and all the persons detained there have been released, according to an Interior Ministry statement issued today. This decision comes 48 hours after the official installation of Mr. Liamine Zeroual as president of the republic. In his address to the nation [on 27 November] Zeroual called for clemency and national reconciliation and renewed his appeal to our children who have been deceived to give up criminal violence.

It is worth noting that since the proclamation of the state of emergency on 9 February 1992 seven detention centers were opened in Reggane, Ouargla, In Salah, Bordj Omar Driss, El Mena, El Homeur, and In Amguel. Since March 1992 these centers were gradually closed down.

Sixty Islamists Surrender to Authorities

LD2311185595 Paris Radio France International
in French 1730 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the [Algerian] newspapers, about 60 Islamists surrendered to the authorities on Saturday and Sunday [18-19 November] in the Constantine region.

Security Services Carry Out Operations

Kill 9 'Criminals'

LD2511192095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security services' statement released today reports the security forces eliminated a group of nine criminals in the El Tadjdid suburb of Mostaganem last Thursday [23 November]. According to the statement, the group was discovered after a security element in the region became the target for an assassination attempt. The security forces then carried out a large-scale search operation, which led them to the criminals.

During the operation, the security forces recovered five automatic pistols, four hunting rifles, home-made bombs, and ammunition of different calibers.

The security services' statement adds that eight of the nine criminals have been had been identified, including leaders of two criminal groups, the search for which is currently under way.

Kill 13 'Terrorists'

LD2611121995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 0630 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A dangerous group of nine terrorists was killed in Mostaganem on Thursday [23 November] following an attempt to kill a member of the security forces last Tuesday. The security services conducted serious investigations. As a result, the main terrorist who was behind this attack was spotted and shot dead. Reda Belhadjoudja reports:

[Belhadjoudja] The security forces continued their man-hunt and found the rest of the group, which had found refuge in a house in the poor district of Tadjid. They raided the premises, freed one woman and three young children, and eliminated the terrorists.

The following day [24 November] another group of four terrorists was found in the same area. The four were shot.

Eight of the nine terrorist who were shot [on 23 November] have been identified. Among them were two wanted group leaders.

Eliminate 20 'Terrorists'

LD2611201495 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement of the security services said today that the security forces have eliminated 20 terrorists this week in the following provinces: Blida, M'sila, Jijel, Medea, Boumerdes, Guelma, Setif, Bouira, Mostaganem, Annaba, and Constantine.

During these operations, the security forces seized six automatic pistols, two Kalashnikov sub-machine guns, nine hunting rifles and 17 homemade bombs.

Report 21 'Terrorists' Killed

LD2911202895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security services announced today that in the last six days 21 terrorists have been eliminated in various regions of the country including: Bouira, Tiaret, Skikda, Tipaza, Jijel, Boumerdes, Mostaganem and Blida. Quantities of arms and ammunition have also been recovered.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Democracy, Arab Relations

NC2911133995 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0905 GMT 29 Nov 95

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak with unidentified correspondents after voting in the People's Assembly elections in Cairo on 29 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Good morning sir.

[Mubarak] Good morning.

[Correspondent] What would your excellency like to say to the new People's Assembly, both [word indistinct] and opposition?

[Mubarak] The new People's Assembly is, of course, an Egyptian Assembly. I will address it on the day of its opening, God willing.

[Correspondent] What about the turnout and the number of candidates? There are some 4,000 candidates, and this [words indistinct] democracy?

[Mubarak] We have been trying to convince them [the opposition] to participate in the elections for a long time. It seems they did not have the ability to participate [in

past elections], and so they said they were boycotting them. As I said earlier, [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Sudan is accusing Egypt of sending tanks to the south....

[Mubarak, interrupting] Tanks?

[Correspondent] Yes, tanks, and also of planting mines on the border road in Hala'ib.

[Mubarak] Why should I plant mines on the road? They have 900 soldiers living and sharing food with our people there. Why should I lay mines on the road? Am I engaged in fighting?

[Correspondent] And no tanks were sent?

[Mubarak] There are no tanks or anything. They are fabricating things. Let them say what they want. I am not sending aircraft to fight, I am not doing this or that. I do not want to say more than this. We cannot attack a Sudanese or help in an attack against a Sudanese.

[Correspondent] Mr. president, international terrorism is now an issue on the agenda of most world meetings. How can countries cooperate to confront international terrorism?

[Mubarak] Thank God that this issue is now on the agendas. We have been discussing this and saying that this is an international issue. If the countries that shelter terrorists do not wake up and start taking measures, they will pay a heavy price, and it might be too late for them to do anything.

[Correspondent] Is Egypt now cooperating with some European countries....

[Mubarak, interrupting] We are cooperating with every country willing to open its heart for us to cooperate against terrorism.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, are you happy with the performance of the current government?

[Mubarak] What is wrong with it? It is proceeding with the economic reform program; it is working fine. Whose government is it? [Words indistinct] any one to enter the government? Then no one will enter the government except to serve as a minister for a short time and then leave. The minister now is a person condemned to hard labor.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the government will not be changed now, sir?

[Mubarak] What change? The change takes place with the change of the head of the state, or with the election of the head of state. Change is a continuous process. I will not come today [words indistinct] and say I will

change the government. I want work, production. I have so far changed 101 ministers. Ministers in any country [words indistinct] after 14 years. This does not mean that somebody should come and say [words indistinct] 14 or 15 years, or may be after two months. But no one removes an entire government and brings in a new one that knows nothing and starts from point zero. Such a new government would start new studies and say this or that was wrong. This would paralyze the country for some time. I do not have time for this. The economic process is going on, the wheel of development is in motion, so I should not stop it. But those [ministers] who falter, we tell them: thank you [we do not need you].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Mubarak] Production and [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Sir, [words indistinct] Syria to advance the track [words indistinct]

[Mubarak] We are cooperating with Syria. Syria is a very friendly country, and we have long-standing relations with it. We discuss everything related to cooperation in the issue of peace.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, the Pakistani interior minister announced that the Islamic University in Pakistan is sheltering terrorists and that some Arab countries are financing it. What is your opinion of this?

[Mubarak] I cannot comment on the statement of the Pakistani interior minister; he knows more about his country. But we may discuss the story of finance and [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] What are the latest reports regarding the embassy in Pakistan, sir?

[Mubarak] (?I have nothing more than what is published in newspapers.)

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] seeing democratic signs such as manual [word indistinct] and updated television reports. What is the significance of these democratic indications, which we see for the first time in Egypt, concerning the fairness of the election?

[Mubarak] Since you said that [word indistinct]. This is progress in democracy; we will see how great this is.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, [words indistinct] current Arab attempts to divide Iraq. Regrettably, some Arab countries are cooperating with Iraqi opposition to....

[Mubarak, interrupting] Let us talk about our position. We are against the partition of Iraq. This is very serious. Iraq must remain a unified country. The partition is a threat to the entire region. We will not accept or approve

this principle, and we will not support it under any circumstances.

[Correspondent] What is the percentage of votes in which your excellency expects the National Democratic Party to win?

[Mubarak] God knows.

Details of People's Assembly Elections Reported

'Incidents' Updated; 30 Reported Wounded

NC2911155895 Paris AFP in English
1534 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (AFP) — One person was shot dead and more than 30 others wounded, including two candidates and a policeman, in a string of incidents during voting in Egypt's parliamentary elections on Wednesday [29 November], police said.

In the worst clash, a gunbattle between sympathizers of two rival candidates from the same family left Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawad dead and three people wounded.

The two sides, backing a candidate of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) and an independent from the 'Uqayl family, fought with guns and sticks in the Juhaynah region of southern Suhaj province.

In al-Wasitah, 95 kilometres (50 miles) from Cairo, unidentified gunmen shot candidate Muhammad Isma'il before fleeing. He was taken to hospital.

Meanwhile, a campaign worker who was refused entry to a polling station shot and seriously wounded its director in the northern Nile Delta village of Ikhnaway.

Safwat Zaydan, a canvasser for independent candidate Muhammad 'Izz, tried to enter the polling station with several supporters but officials kept him out, police said.

Also in the Nile Delta, supporters of another independent set fire to a polling station and destroyed four ballot boxes before police restored order and made 16 arrests.

A policeman and two other people were injured in al-Fayyum, 100 kilometres (60 miles) south of Cairo.

In al-Jizaa, across the Nile from Cairo, independent Jalal Hassunah was wounded in a dispute with supporters of the NDP. One person was shot in the arm in the capital itself.

Moslem Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi's office said he escaped a knife attack by NDP sympathizers.

Fourteen supporters of an Islamist candidate were wounded in a clash with backers of a Marxist rival in al-Daqahliyah province northeast of Cairo, police said.

Elsewhere in northern Egypt, one person was stabbed and seven others beaten with sticks in the northern region of al-Gharbiyah in a confrontation between supporters of an independent and an NDP candidate.

'Widespread Rigging' Claimed

*NC2911161895 Paris AFP in English
1545 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (AFP) — Polling stations closed in Egypt's legislative elections on Wednesday [29 November] amid opposition accusations of widespread rigging of the vote by the ruling party.

"Two hours before the closing of the polls, men from the National Democratic party (NDP) threw out our observers in order to stuff the ballot boxes," Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, a candidate for the Moslem Brotherhood, told AFP.

The Brotherhood was the ruling NDP's main rival in the race in which 4,040 candidates from nine parties participated.

The polls opened at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT) and closed at 5 p.m. (1500 GMT) in the election for 444 seats in the People's Assembly.

Polls Close; Results To Be Announced

*NC2911173995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1647 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The polls in Egypt's People's Assembly elections closed at 1700 today. [passage omitted]

The counting should begin later tonight and totals will be determined in Election Commission regional centers. The results will be tabulated as the totals come in to the Interior Ministry's operations room. The final results will be announced tomorrow.

Election Committee Chairman Assaulted

*NC2911202495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1945 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The chairman of the general elections committee in Markaz Qutur has extended the operating hours of committee No. 67 in Ibsaway village to 1900 today. The decision was made after the committee stopped working after a number of individuals broke into the committee center, destroyed all the election papers, broke windows, and assaulted the chairman of the committee. Security forces apprehended Ramzi al-Jinnu, the group's leader. A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry said that the chairman of the committee submitted a detailed

memorandum on the incident to the chairman of the general elections committee, who went to the scene. After inspecting the center, he decided that its work would continue until 1900 today and that the old papers would be replaced with new ones.

Quarrels Accompany Vote Counting

*NC3011110395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1037 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Nov (MENA)—The security forces today intervened to end a quarrel between the supporters of candidate Mustafa Bakri and the supporters of Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, member of the National Democratic Party [NDP], who is running for a People's Assembly seat on the professionals list. An official security source announced that the quarrel, the third of its kind, broke out this morning in front of a vote counting office opposite the Steel Works Club. The situation was contained and the security forces cordoned off the office.

In another incident, the supporters of Anwar Sha'ban, an independent candidate running for a seat on the professionals list in the Bulaq Constituency, shouted slogans hostile to the NDP and hurled rocks at the security forces while the votes were being counted. They damaged three passing vehicles before the security forces confronted and dispersed them.

Sixty supporters of Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, member of the Journalists Association [Muslim Brotherhood member and AL-SHA'B columnist], who is running for a seat on the professionals list, shouted hostile slogans in front of a vote counting office in the Bulaq Police District Constituency. The security forces confronted and dispersed them and brought the situation under control.

Papers Deem Election 'Black Day for Democracy'

*NC3011084695 Paris AFP in English
0756 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 30 (AFP) — The opposition press ran banner headlines claiming widespread fraud on Thursday [30 November] as votes were counted in a parliamentary election which pitched the ruling party against Muslim fundamentalists.

Early Thursday, results had been announced only in one district, where candidates from President Husni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic party (NDP) ran uncontested for two seats in Wednesday's election.

The candidates, one of whom was Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kamal al-Shadhili, won 88.48 percent of the vote, Interior Ministry sources said.

The NDP, which has won sweeping victories in every election since its creation in 1978, is expected to win at least the two-thirds majority in parliament needed to elect the head of state.

Opposition papers on Thursday decried widespread vote rigging by the government in the election marked by violence which left five dead and over 60 injured.

"A black day for democracy," ran the banner of daily AL-AHRAR of the Liberal party, which ran 63 candidates in the vote.

"Victory of the thugs," the liberal party AL-WAFD daily said, while the Nasserist party denounced in its AL-'ARABI organ, "Black Wednesday: Massive fraud and bloody election."

Since the polls opened Wednesday morning, the opposition has accused the NDP of stuffing the ballot boxes in Cairo and the Nile Delta, while an independent watchdog group received 500 complaints of vote fraud.

No official turnout was yet announced, but the government press said Thursday there had been "unprecedented participation."

Twenty-one million Egyptians were registered to vote in the election to fill 444 seats in the People's Assembly.

Because of the large number of candidates, nearly 4,000, many districts will be decided by a second round of voting on December 6 if no one candidate won half the vote in Wednesday's poll.

Mubarak Telephones al-Asad, al-Qadhdhafi

NC2911214795 Cairo MENA in English
2040 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak this evening had a phone call with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad where the two Arab leaders exchanged views on the recent developments of the Middle East peace process.

Also, President Mubarak had a phone call with leader of the Libyan revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The two leaders discussed a number of issues of common interest.

Musa Discusses Barcelona Conference, Mideast Peace

NC2911153295 Cairo MENA in English
1428 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 29 (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told reporters following his meeting today with President Husni Mubarak today that he reported to the president on the outcome of the Euro-Mediterranean Barcelona Conference, its

final statement and the meetings held there on the Mideast peace process. The report also deals with future cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean basin countries in political, economic and cultural fields, he added. Musa pointed out that he expects a new turn for the Egyptian diplomacy in the coming months on the role of the Mediterranean Sea and joint projects that would be agreed upon. On his expectation that progress would be achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track following the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Musa expressed belief that this could happen, noting that the few coming days and weeks would witness activities in this respect.

Asked whether or not Egypt would adopt a call for holding an international conference on terrorism combat, Musa said it is possible.

This issue should be discussed with other countries, he added, noting that all countries are ready to give a hand as they consider terrorism a crime that terrorises communities worldwide.

Frankly terrorism has nothing to do with Islam, he said, making clear that it exists everywhere.

On the effects of Israeli repeated attacks on southern Lebanon on the Mideast peace process, the minister went on to say that any killing or assault certainly affects the peace drive.

Asked if he discussed with his Israeli counterpart Ehud Barak in Barcelona the issue of Israeli nuclear experiments, Musa said they probed all items tabled on agendas of Egyptian-Israeli relations, the Middle East and requirements of an overall peace.

It was my first meeting with him in his capacity as new Israeli foreign minister and I got acquainted with his vision, Musa said.

Barak stressed his desire to push forward the Middle East march, Musa added.

The Egyptian-Israeli consultations on Israeli nuclear programs are continuing till an agreement is reached in this connection, he added.

Asked if Peres is due to visit Egypt shortly and of issues to be raised for discussion during the visit, Musa said that Peres is due here in December for talks with senior Egyptian officials on a number of questions mainly bilateral relations and the Mideast peace process.

The issue of Egyptian captives (POW's) together with other topics will be raised for discussion during the visit, he added.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Leader Interviewed

MM2911164195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
29 Nov 95 p 18

[Interview with Mustafa Mashhur, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, by Muhammad Salah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salah] The confrontation between the Muslim Brotherhood group and the government reached its peak last week following the sentences issued in the two cases involving the Muslim Brotherhood. They included imprisonment for 54 members and the closure of the group's headquarters. Why has the crisis reached such a level?

[Mashhur] The Muslim Brotherhood has been on the scene since 1928, and the Brothers have engaged in political action under numerous regimes. We have dealt with the current regime for 14 years, and there has been no tension between us and it. On the contrary, the regime has recognized us to a large extent. For example, when Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat comes to Cairo and visits the Muslim Brotherhood's headquarters and meets with us, this is not done secretly behind the officials' back or without their knowledge. There is also a legal suit being examined by the State Council concerning the ban on our political activities.

[Salah] The government accuses you of supporting terrorism and extremist groups.

[Mashhur] We do not practice terrorism. Numerous violent incidents, including the Military Technology College incident in 1974, have taken place since the Brothers were released in the early seventies. This is in addition to the assassination of Shaykh al-Dhahabi in 1977, the assassination of President al-Sadat in 1981, the violent incidents in Asyut, the incidents against the Copts, and recently the operations against officials and tourists over the past four years. None of the Brothers took part in these incidents.

[Salah] Is it not possible to reach some points of agreement between you and the government?

[Mashhur] We have on numerous occasions requested a dialogue with the government, but they prevented us from participating in the national dialogue for which President (Husni) Mubarak called last year. The Muslim Brotherhood wants officials to listen to its views. But the government is insisting on closing all doors to us. We want to clarify matters to President Mubarak. Maybe the picture he has about us is wrong. Why does he not meet with us in order to learn the truth?

[Salah] The government has had successes in the confrontation with extremist groups, but you do not want to admit that.

[Mashhur] We have on many occasions said that the terrorism problem cannot be solved through a security confrontation only. There must be freedom and dialogue in order to eliminate all the causes of extremism. As for force and repression, they achieve nothing. Proof of this is the fact that some operations continue to be carried out in the south. Had the government allowed the Muslim Brotherhood a space for action and freedom to carry out its activities, we would have protected many of the young men who have resorted to extremism. They would have been absorbed and taught the true Islam.

[Salah] Do you believe that it has decided to confront the Muslim Brotherhood after it finished with the extremists?

[Mashhur] Why the Brothers? Has any of them upset the government at all? We have not provoked any official. We perform our activities through official institutions like the unions, teaching staff clubs, student unions, and local councils. These are our means, which do not violate the law. The government does not want Islamists to share power with it, saying that they have infiltrated unions and other bodies. The government should not be influenced by secularists and leftists, who are fighting religion and do not want Islam to prevail.

[Salah] You are provoking the government by taking control of the unions and by prompting opposition parties and forces to adopt anti-regime policies.

[Mashhur] Is it a violation of the law when we participate in unionist elections conducted in freedom and not imposed by anyone? They said that we are an organized minority that elects representatives for it in the absence of the other members of the unions. They amended the professional unions laws, making conditional that 50 percent of the members of the general assembly of every union take part to ensure that the elections are sound. Nevertheless, the Brothers were successful in the agriculturists', journalists', and scientists' elections held in accordance with the amendments. It is not a provocation when we demand one of the people's rights. When we object to the emergency law, which has been in force for 14 years, our objective is to ensure that the people enjoy freedom so that they will become an example for the other peoples of the world. We care about Egypt's reputation abroad. The Brothers in the humanitarian relief committee raised Egypt's name high and provided great services to other peoples. But to our surprise, they were arrested on the pretext of traveling to receive training in the use of weapons. Where is the training and its

results? Has any of them committed an action that violates the law?

[Salah] Do you believe that the Brothers' preparations for the elections are the cause of the crisis?

[Mashhur] Our entry into the People's Assembly is not an end in itself. It is a means to Islamic activities, in order to raise the banner "Islam is the solution." Other raise nationalist and socialist slogans. So we are entitled to raise the slogan in which we believe and to try to convince people of it through the People's Assembly platform.

[Salah] Some opposition leaders believe that the Brothers were behind the failure of the efforts aimed at agreeing on a national document accord document among the political opposition parties and forces.

[Mashhur] When the brothers agree with any party on a certain issue, the agreement is normally over specific points, not general points. Because there is a difference between our principles and those of the secularists and leftists. For example, when there is a joint issue like freedoms and elections and their guarantees, it is possible to cooperate with them on these issues. But it is unlikely that we would agree with them on an alliance, charter, or a link between us and them. In our debates as regards the national accord document we requested that the document stipulate the Islamic Shari'ah. But some parties refused and did not respond to our demand, so we said, it is up to you.

[Salah] Do you believe that some parties are moving closer to the Brothers in the hope of obtaining votes from their voters?

[Mashhur] We entered the 1984 elections on the Wafd Party's list. The late Muslim Brotherhood general guide, 'Umar al-Tilmisani, told Wafd leader Pu'ad Siraj-al-Din: We need a channel, and you need our votes, but after the elections the Brothers will remain Brothers and the Wafdist will remain Wafdist, and there is no complete integration between us. We entered the elections on the Wafd's list on that basis.

[Salah] On what basis did the Brothers choose their candidates? And how many do you hope will reach parliament?

[Mashhur] We let the Brothers in every governorate choose suitable persons as candidates. We did not impose any names. We did not interfere. We just had a look at the proposed names, and we agreed to any suitable person. We hope that — if the elections are conducted in freedom and without any blatant rigging — one-third of our candidates, and there are 150 of them, will win. The Brothers won 10 seats in the

1984 elections and 35 in the 1987 elections. In the light of the conditions we have experienced and the pressures put on us over recent months, the success of 50 Brothers would not be bad. We believe that the people are responding to us, and people are rallying around our candidates. There are many candidates — which means that the elections might not be settled in the first round. There will be a second round in many constituencies. If there is a second round between a Brotherhood candidate and a National [Democratic] Party candidate, the government will have a big chance to rig the elections, because they will be able to pick off the Brotherhood candidate, easily rigging the elections. Nevertheless, we are convinced that the arrests and the trials are to do with the elections. The government has resorted to the method of preventing people from becoming candidates to spare itself the effort of rigging the elections.

[Salah] You have abandoned some constituencies to some opposition leaders, and also some of the constituencies in which government officials are candidates. But you have named Counselor Ma'mun al-Hudaybi as a candidate in the al-Duqqi constituency against Social Affairs Minister Dr. Amal 'Uthman. Would it not have been better to avoid that confrontation?

[Mashhur] The al-Dukki and al-'Ajuzah constituency is al-Hudaybi's. It is not simple or easy to abandon it. If the government has named the minister as a candidate, it is up to them. The voters will choose the one they want. We have abandoned some constituencies to avoid conflict and clashes and also because of our respect for some figures. But it does not mean that we abandon constituencies for all government figures. We have decided to enter the elections in this manner.

[Salah] Did the Brothers regret their decision not to participate in the 1990 elections?

[Mashhur] The boycott took place after the opposition parties and the political forces submitted requests to officials to amend the election law to ensure honest elections. We had hoped that the government would respond to these demands, but it did not, so we boycotted the elections. We did not decide to boycott unilaterally. This time, we have said no, we will not boycott. We will not abandon the scene. We must participate.

[Salah] Despite the Brothers' statement about their belief in democracy, there is a general feeling that you would abandon it once you formed a government.

[Mashhur] That is a lie designed to cast doubt on us. The Brothers adhere to Islam and Islamic shura [consultation]. We have some time ago issued some publi-

cations on pluralism. How can we suffer detention and torture in prison for the sake of Islam and then decide to violate Islam? There are allegations that, if we rule, we would form a religious government with divine powers. That is untrue. A Brotherhood government would be a normal government with technocrats in every ministry. But every ministry will have a committee to supervise converting the current situation at the ministry to an Islamic situation. The transition would take place without disruption.

[Salah] What is your position on the formation of leftist parties?

[Mashhur] There is no objection if the party's formation is compatible with the state's principles.

[Salah] And who decides that?

[Mashhur] There would be a specialist committee to examine party formation applications. Islam believes in the unity of God. We would not prevent anyone from believing in Marxism. No compulsion in religion. But I do not think that the Islamic state would allow him to urge others to become atheists.

[Salah] And the Copts?

[Mashhur] There is a campaign to cast doubt on the Muslim Brotherhood's position toward the Copts. Some quarters are trying to drive a wedge between us and them. History proves that the Muslim brotherhood's relations with the Copts have been normal since the days of the Brotherhood's founder, Hasan al-Banna. No Copt has complained about problems with the Brothers. Some people say that the Copts would become second-class citizens in an Islamic state — which is untrue. Islam is the religion of freedom and justice. We played a distinguished role in controlling the sectarian sedition incidents that erupted in al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' before al-Sadat's murder.

[Salah] Would you accept a Copt party?

[Mashhur] No objection as long as it is set up under the state's Constitution. There is nothing strange in their having a party to express their views and speak on their behalf.

[Salah] But that would threaten to turn political arguments into religious arguments?

[Mashhur] There is no reason for such arguments, because Islam gives them all their rights. So why should they argue? If they argue, their arguments will be over things that do not belong to them.

[Salah] How will the Brothers respond to the sentences passed by the military court?

[Mashhur] Those who were tried by the military court include former members of parliament and figures whose chances of winning in the elections were substantial. They decided to run in the elections because they were under preventive detention. We did not object. But they encountered harassment from the government and the military court, so they decided to withdraw from the elections. We played no part in that. And the sentences will not prompt us to react violently to the government. We complain to God only, because He is mighty. And we hope that the Higher Constitutional Court, to which two cases have been referred by those who were tried by the military court, will contest Clause II of Article VI of the military court law, which allows the president of the republic to refer civilians to military courts. We hope that this article will be abolished, hence dropping the sentences and also the president's right to refer civilian to military courts.

[Salah] How will you perform your activities after the closure of the AL-DA'WAH magazine offices, which you used as a headquarters?

[Mashhur] The headquarters was closed just an hour before the sentences were passed. The law says that sentences cannot be implemented before they are endorsed. The strange thing is that none of the defendants has anything to do with the headquarters, neither 'Isam al-'Iryan nor others. We will refer to the judiciary, and we are confident that it will do us justice.

Court To Hand Down Brotherhood Verdicts

NC2911195595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1710 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Nov (MENA)—The Higher Military Court today said it would hand down its verdict in the Muslim Brotherhood case in Suez on 30 November. The case involves three defendants, including fugitive defendant Yasir Tawfiq Sirri. A death sentence has been passed against him on charges of attempting to assassinate the prime minister. During the session, the court heard the defense of the second defendant, Hilmi al-'Azzazi. His lawyer, Sa'd Hasaballah, argued that the investigations were false; the accusations fabricated; and that any relationship between the first defendant, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Sharf-al-Din, and Hilmi al-'Azzazi had not been established. The lawyer said it had not been proven that the defendants had a telephone conversation. The defense also said that defendant al-'Azzazi was not guilty of anything, such as distributing leaflets, which were said to be seized off the fax machine of the first defendant. Also, the search of the second defendant did not reveal any incriminating material. The lawyer further argued that the tape of the telephone call between the second defendant al-'Azzazi

and the third defendant, Yasir Sirri, was also false. He confirmed that the confessions of the defendant were made under duress and torture and that the defendants were deprived of their legal and constitutional right to have a lawyer present during the investigations.

The military prosecution office earlier accused the defendants of conveying instructions between the Muslim Brotherhood shura council and the Vanguard of Conquest Organization and of the incriminating agreement to transmit faxes and print leaflets prepared abroad to distribute in Egypt. The leaflets were aimed at instigating the masses.

Libya

Embassy in Mauritania Closed; Economic Aid Suspended

LD3011091895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0755 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 29 Nov [date as received] — The Jamahiriya News Agency [JANA] has learned that the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau [embassy] in Nouakchott has been closed down and the bureau secretary [ambassador] has been withdrawn. The agency has also learned that it has been decided to cut off all economic assistance which the Great Jamahiriya is providing Mauritania with and to disperse with Mauritanian workers who are in the Great Jamahiriya.

Ambassador Recalled

LD2911154395 Tripoli Great Jamahiriya Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source at the General People's Committee for Unity has announced that in view of the signing by Mauritania of an agreement recognizing and establishing relations with the Israeli enemy and in light of the Jamahiriya's principled and declared attitude vis-a-vis this question, it has recalled the brother secretary of the Fraternal Bureau [embassy] in Nouakchott as an expression of its rejection and denunciation of the compromise, concession, and surrender committed by the Mauritanian Government and the violation of its undertakings, in accordance with Arab charters and treaties, and the charter and decisions of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Aide Denies Amman Reports, Link to Riyadh Blast

MM2911164895 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 29 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Severe Tension in Libyan-Jordanian Relations; Tripoli Denies Any Link With Riyadh Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Libyan-Jordanian relations are going through a phase of severe tension these days, as authoritative official Libyan sources accuse the Jordanian Government of releasing inaccurate reports to harm Libya and level accusations of terrorism at it.

A senior Libyan official has told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Jordan has become a base for action against Libya, even though it has not embarked on any step to harm it. And that his country might not remain silent about these insults.

The official was pointing to the reports published by Jordanian newspapers, which accused two Libyans of arriving in Amman to carry out terrorist actions with a view to undermining stability in Jordan.

The official, who denied the reports completely, believes that official Jordanian circles release such reports to the Jordanian press in the framework of a defamation campaign against Libya. He said that the attempt to link the Riyadh explosion to two Libyans who disappeared after arriving in Amman is unacceptable fabrication, reveals the existence of bad intentions toward Libya, and is an unjustifiable provocation against it.

The official expressed his surprise at what has been published over the past two days by the Arab and foreign press about the Libyan authorities' involvement in assassinating a Libyan oppositionist in the British capital. He said that Libyan-British relations are in a stage of improvement, and it would be illogical to embark on such an operation on British territory to abort great efforts exerted over the past five years to improve relations. These efforts are about to bear fruit.

He described 'Ali Muhammad Abu-Zayd, who was killed last Sunday morning while on his way to a grocery store he owns in the center of London, as an insignificant person who does not worry officials in Tripoli. He said: "If the United States with its aircraft and bombardment of the capital, Tripoli, failed to do anything to Libya or its regime, how can the owner of a small grocery store in the British capital succeed in doing what the United States failed to do?"

Dissident Fears Start of 'Assassination Campaign'*MM2911165995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic**29 Nov 95 p 6*

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Libyan Dissident Fears Start of Assassination Campaign"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Al-Hajj Sabir Majid, member of the opposition Libyan Movement for Change and Reform, has accused the Libyan regime of having assassinated 'Ali Muhammad Abu-Zayd, member of the movement, in London on Sunday. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he said that he expects the start of an assassination campaign aimed at dissidents abroad.

He said that he "has no doubt" that the Libyan organs carried out the assassination, pointing to the scores of Libyans assassinated abroad over various periods since the seventies. Asked whether he feared that Abu-Zayd's assassination would be the start of a campaign aimed at dissidents, he replied: "We have had warnings that the Libyan regime has started an assassination campaign and specifically targeted Abu-Zayd, calling him a criminal."

He said that the deceased "was a prominent dissident abroad, who also had undertaken internal activities against the regime and was one of the people who did not shy away from performing their national duty."

He pointed out that since 1991 he [Abu-Zayd] had worked in a store in London's Queensway district and that "he did not have a problem with anyone except (Colonel Mu'ammarr) al-Qadhafi."

He stressed that "this incident will only make the national movement and all those fighting the regime more determined to continue the struggle against the regime until victory is achieved." He said that the Libyan leader "is well aware that the Libyan opposition has influence inside Libya and abroad, and that the anger of the people in Libya could erupt at any time. The past three months have seen several incidents during which no less than 3,000 people from all groups were arrested, bearing in mind that all the detainees will be wrongly charged with offenses which are very far from the truth."

He accused the Libyan regime of "not having relinquished for one day the idea of practicing terrorism against Libyans inside Libya and abroad, using all available means..., so much so that Libyans are isolated and branded with being terrorists."

Asked whether Abu-Zayd's assassination will have any effect on the opposition, he replied: "The assassination has had a negative effect on us, but it will not prevent us from continuing the struggle against the regime."

Asked about cooperation with the rest of the opposition, he said: "In the opposition we all cooperate. We have one goal and one cause, even if our methods of operation differ."

JANA Criticizes U.S. Motives in Bosnia Accord*LD2911173795 Tripoli JANA in English**1456 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, al-Harth [November] 29 (JANA) — The American President admitted that the deployment of NATO forces in Bosnia aims at the achievement of American national interests.

The President added in his speech that the NATO forces which will be deployed in Bosnia will include 60,000 soldiers and will remain for a whole year. That is, until the time of the coming American elections.

Here we note that the statement by the American President comes less than one week after the statement made by the leader of the revolution to JANA over the agreements signed in America in respect of Bosnia to reaffirm the depth of analysis made in the statement of the leader that the agreement signed in an air base outside the American city of Dayton over Bosnia-Herzegovina has no guarantees of success for several reasons including its use in American electoral propaganda. This was the major factor which led to this hurried and immature agreement rather than sympathy for the Yugoslav people. This agreement which is linked to electoral propaganda is considered an inhuman act because it uses the nations in propaganda that precedes elections and it is the same as electoral propaganda.

The statement by the American President comes to reaffirm the statement by the leader of the revolution that the military force which was announced for deployment in Bosnia-Herzegovina is in fact a station to occupy western Yugoslavia and the fate of Third World countries will be the same.

Mauritania**Government Closes Libyan Cultural Center***AB3011090295 Paris AFP in French**2116 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Nouakchott, 29 Nov (AFP) — The Government of Mauritania today decided to close the Libyan cultural center in Nouakchott following Colonel al-Qadhafi's announcement to no longer recognize Mauritania "as an Arab country," it was announced from official sources.

For his part, Mauritanian Communications Minister Rachid Ould Saleh expressed his "surprise and indignation" at Col. al-Qadhafi's pronouncement following

the opening of interest zones in Tel Aviv and Nouakchott.

In Tripoli, the Libyan leader called on the Mauritanian leaders "to rescind their decision and save their authenticity and the values that they have so far demonstrated."

"What right has Tripoli got to decide whether or not a country belongs to the Arab League," Mr. Ould Saleh wondered. Libya, whose relations with Mauritania have not been always excellent, today recalled its ambassador to Nouakchott as an expression of "his refusal of the agreement signed by Mauritania and Israel."

Sudan

Taha, al-Turabi on Conflict in South, Other Issues

JN2911124495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
29 Nov 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by Ibrahim Jabir Ibrahim]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha congratulated His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people on Jordan's celebrations of King Husayn's birthday. In an interview in Khartoum, he said: I would like to send our greetings through AL-DUSTUR to our Jordanian brothers who seek to preserve their country's independence and identity in the turbulent sea of world politics. [passage omitted]

On the political situation in Sudan, Taha said that the south is still Sudan's deep wound. Despite all the political efforts to resolve the problem peacefully, followed by the application of a federal government system and the positive response shown by many southerners in Sudan and abroad, the parties behind the conflict continue to agitate this wound in order to drain the country's capabilities and to make it yield to their schemes.

The recent battles in the south, he said, bear witness to that. He added: These parties sent new reinforcements armed with heavy weapons across the border with Uganda in an attempt to get a foothold and bargain over the rebels' demand for the right of self determination, and later separation. [passage omitted]

Asked about Sudan's position on the Egyptian Embassy explosion in Pakistan, Taha said: The policy of explosions and assassinations is undoubtedly unacceptable, since it often results in the injury and killing of innocent people who are not a party to the conflict. This has always been our official and public position. We believe that everyone is required to stamp out this phenomenon, look into its causes, and deal with it in a manner that would totally eliminate such acts. [passage omitted]

Interviewed by AL-DUSTUR, Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Popular Conference, said that Uganda is just a war base against Sudan. In a clear reference to the United States, he said that there are those who supply Uganda with logistic support, manpower, and heavy weapons. This organized support from a major power to the Ugandans, he added, has turned the fighting from small skirmishes and guerrilla warfare to a regular war with heavy weapons.

Al-Turabi said that some southern groups' demand for independence and separation has already been met in all of the Sudanese regions through the federal government system. Many southerners have returned to their peaceful and stable towns and villages and are being integrated into their social and economic life.

Regarding the Palestinian dialogue between the National Authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] which Khartoum was supposed to host next month, al-Turabi said his acquaintance with Yasir 'Arafat — which goes back to the 50's — and his familiarity with Hamas since its inception prompted him to use this relationship to bring the two sides together on more than one occasion, however, he added, this was affected by the Oslo agreement. "I believe," he said "that brother Yasir 'Arafat has become closer to some Arab capitals and is embarrassed to visit Khartoum or to consider me as the link with Hamas." He added: "What I am concerned about is that Palestinian blood should not be shed with Palestinian hands and that Palestinian energies should not be wasted on internal disputes."

Asked about the upcoming Palestinian elections, al-Turabi said he hopes that the Islamic current will participate in the cultural, economic, and social aspects of Palestinian life. As for the elections, al-Turabi said that he neither expects nor does he prefer Hamas' participation in the elections. [passage omitted]

Relief Flights Resume to 'Peaceful Areas' in South

EA2811220095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The competent authorities have said that flights have been allowed to peaceful areas in the south since yesterday. Permission has been granted temporarily for relief flights and flights to ensure that the requirements of UN employees, international voluntary societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross who are operating in various areas, are met [words indistinct].

A government statement said this step comes in the wake of a decision taken on 22 November, which provides for a temporary stoppage of these flights in

order to ensure security for relief aircraft and their crew and passengers, particularly after the emergency circumstances that resulted from the Ugandan invasion of southern Sudan at the end of October, backed by the scattered remnants of the rebellion.

The competent authorities said these steps are aimed at ensuring a normal flow of relief supplies within the framework of Operation Lifeline. The government expressed confidence in the understanding of all parties connected with humanitarian work of the emergency circumstances that led to the temporary stoppage of flights. It reaffirmed that the Armed Forces' control of the theaters of operations has paved the way for the resumption of flights by these organizations to peaceful areas (in the south) [words indistinct].

SPLM Spokesman Denies Egypt Supplied Weapons
NC2911162695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1425 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nairobi, 29 Nov (MENA) — Steven Wundo, official spokesman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), led by John Garang, has denied that the SPLM has received military support from Egypt since it began military operations against the successive regimes in Khartoum. In a statement to MENA this afternoon, he said the claims by Ghazi Salah-al-Din 'Atabani, Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs — that Egypt sent tanks to the SPLM — show the state of frenzy and mental confusion of the Khartoum rulers following their battlefield defeat. He noted that these lies are meant to deceive the Sudanese people. He stressed that the mentality of the extremist racist regime in Khartoum refuses to believe that the sons of the south are able to defend their right to equality and self-determination. He said that this confused mentality randomly accuses Uganda, Eritrea, the United States, and Egypt. Will they also accuse New Zealand of supporting the rebels? He stressed that the tanks currently available to the SPLM belong to the Sudanese Government, whose forces left behind when they fled cities and military garrisons in Eastern Equatoria in November.

Pro-Regime, Opposition Students Clash in Omdurman

MM2911121695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 29 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by 'Uthman Mirghani: "Bullets, Molotovs, and Injuries in Sudanese Students' Clashes"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Omdurman public university was the scene of bloody students' clashes during which bullets and Molotov cocktails and iron

bars were used and which resulted in a large number of injuries.

Informed Sudanese sources said that the clashes, which began the night before last and escalated yesterday, have spilled over from inside the university to outside, and that the security forces have intervened and closed al-Arba'in street, one of the main arteries linking the two cities of Omdurman and Khartoum.

According to information received as of yesterday evening, the clashes erupted when groups of students supporting the National Islamic Front (NIF) attacked other groups supporting the opposition Democratic National Grouping (DNG) after verbal clashes between the two sides on the fringes of a "students' week" organized by the students supporting the DNG.

The information points to limited clashes between the two sides the night before last when a group of students armed with iron bars and affiliated to the NIF attacked some other students affiliated to the opposition DNG. The clashes resumed yesterday afternoon, this time more extensively, when NIF supporters boycotted a conference organized by student supporters of the opposition DNG, demanding to be given the opportunity to talk about "Martyr's Day in Sudan." There was an altercation between the two sides in which iron bars were used, and some shots were heard.

Other sources said that the hall where the students' activity was taking place was set on fire when Molotov cocktails were used during the clashes, and that part of the Students' Union headquarters were set alight. A number of cars inside the compound, some belonging to lecturers at the university, were destroyed.

Fire engines rushed to the university compound and the police forces intervened to confront the students, whose clashes extended from inside the university compound to outside.

Although the number of injured is still unclear, some student sources said that scores of people were injured. The sources said that three students suffering from serious injuries were taken into the intensive care unit at Omdurman hospital.

The Students' Union of the Omdurman public university had sent an invitation to Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese premier and leader of the opposition al-Ummah party, to give a lecture on the current situation, and especially the economic situation, next Saturday (2 December) in the university compound. In the light of yesterday's developments, this lecture might be canceled. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Inquires About King Fahd's Health

LD3011103295 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: We have received the following from the Amiri Court:

His highness the amir this morning phoned his brother His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to be assured about the health of the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd]. His highness assured his highness the amir about the health of his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques. His highness the amir wished a speedy recovery for his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, made a similar phone call to his brother His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Receives Message From Syria's al-Shar'

LD2911130495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1052 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 Nov (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, received a written message from Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shar' today.

A responsible source at the Foreign Affairs Ministry told KUNA that the message contained an invitation to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to attend the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign affairs ministers which is scheduled to be held in the Syrian capital at the end of December.

The message was delivered by Dr. Mustafa Haj 'Ali, Syrian ambassador to Kuwait, during his meeting with Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In another development, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad received a written message from Gebre Selasie Tesfaye, Eritrean minister of energy, mines, and water resources.

The source said that the message contained an invitation to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to attend the inauguration of an electricity power station in Asmara which the Kuwaiti Development Fund financed. [passage omitted]

'Severe' Housing Problem' Highlighted

96AE0006A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 26 Oct 95 p 11

[Article by Fadyah al-Z'ubi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—The Kuwaiti Government is facing a severe housing problem requiring the provision of 42,000 housing units for low-income citizens within slightly more than two years.

The Kuwaiti Government, which is subject to strong parliamentary pressure, has acknowledged its inability to finance the construction of these housing units, whose cost, with services, exceeds 5 billion Kuwaiti dinars (about \$16.67 billion). It also acknowledged that it would be difficult to obtain the land needed for this construction in such a brief time.

The worsening of Kuwait's housing crisis comes as the government strives to reduce its general budget deficit and to prepare for a confrontation with a parliamentary bloc in parliament's next session, scheduled to start in several weeks. In that confrontation, it is expected that the government and governmental agencies will be interpellated regarding the causes for the delay in fulfilling housing requests, which have been accumulating for years.

In its last session, Kuwait's National Assembly focused on the housing problem. It promulgated a law that urges the expedited fulfillment of requests for state housing. The problem of providing housing to citizens is a strong card in the hands of parliamentary deputies wishing to campaign for the parliamentary elections slated for October 1996.

The Kuwaiti constitution guarantees every citizen the right to housing welfare. Citizens hold fast to this right to obtain special governmental housing, even though thousands of rental apartments remain empty.

Promise for the Year 2001

The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Habib Jawhar Hayat, emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the ministry will fulfill the entire backlog of 42,000 requests for housing units by 2001. However, he has declared elsewhere, "Give me sites, then call me to account."

The minister's high aspirations are encountering a number of obstacles. The most important obstacle, Municipal Council member Khalifah Musa'id al-Khurafi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, is a lack of sufficient funds for the government to build these housing units. The Kuwait municipality is also facing obstacles to the procurement of land for construction purposes, as most of

the land in Kuwait sits on top of oil, and the Kuwait Oil Company does not allow housing construction on it.

The housing problem in Kuwait does not mean that applicants for state housing cannot find housing. Empty rental apartments fill the country. The state is providing financial assistance to low-income persons entitled to state housing to help them rent housing for their families. The problem is that the government is obliged to provide housing for ownership to all entitled citizens, who pay for the housing in comfortable installments over a period of about 20 years.

Perhaps citizens are refusing to live in apartments, and low-income citizens are demanding to own homes on a par with citizens who have already obtained housing under these entitlements. The government is striving to obtain the land needed to build this large number of houses.

And here, another problem pertaining to land emerges.

Most of the Land Sits on Top of Oil Reserves

Khalifah al-Khurafi states that there are large tracts of empty land in Kuwait, but only 5 percent of the country's territory is developed. Construction on most of the land in Kuwait is subject to the Kuwait Oil Company's approval, as oil lies underneath most of Kuwait's territory. He said that the limited land that the Kuwait Oil Company permits the municipality to prepare for housing construction suffices for the construction of 42,000 private homes. However, the use of this amount of limited land is also facing obstacles, one of which is that Kuwaitis refuse to live in areas that they consider remote—e.g., al-Sibyah, Khayran, and al-Wafrah—even though the municipality provides them with full electricity, water, and road services. The government has spent hundreds of thousands of dinars on these areas, which nonetheless remain devoid of housing because citizens refuse to live there.

As for land that is relatively closer to the populated areas, some of it faces legal obstacles, e.g., the presence of a house for inheritance or clashes between ministries.

Al-Khurafi doubts that it will be possible to fulfill all of the citizens' requests for governmental housing. He stated that financing for the construction of these housing units and the services that go with them would require all of the state's resources over the next four or five years. However, given the deficit in the general budget, which the government is seeking to end in 2000, it would be difficult if not impossible to cover the costs of construction and services. "If the municipality can provide the necessary land, can the government provide the funding?"

The minister of public works and minister of state for housing affairs stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the ministry will begin, in early 1996, to build 20,000 housing units for low-income persons, which will be completed within one and a half years. He said that private-sector contracting companies will participate in construction operations and that the ministry is currently engaged in formulating procedures to regulate this unprecedented partnership between the private sector and the government.

Vertical construction, which the Higher Housing Council approved some time ago, has entered the implementation stage according to a previous statement made by Minister Hayyat. Minister Hayyat stated that vertical construction will encompass areas extending from the heart of the capital to the sixth circular road. The areas to be remitted for the construction of vertical housing have been determined, and the necessary plans for them will be formulated in late 1996.

The Banks' Role

Domestic banks, whose sector is the most able to provide financing, have apparently seized upon the anxiety developed by citizens throughout their wait for governmental housing. Most of these banks are offering loans of up to 70,000 dinars for the construction, refurbishment, and expansion of housing. This offer is meeting with keen interest on the part of citizens entitled to government loans at very low interest for long terms of up to 20 years. They are combining these bank loans with government loans to build private homes, the cost of which cannot be covered solely by a government loan.

Also, Kuwaiti Islamic banks, such as the Kuwaiti Finance House, are offering to purchase houses selected by citizens and to then sell them to citizens, adding the sum equivalent to resale with specification of gain, as provided in Islamic law, and allowing the sum to be paid fully in installments. This arrangement is called rental financing.

Cabinet's Opinion

The Kuwaiti cabinet's opinion is apparent in a report that it sent to the municipal council, in which it enumerates the obstacles blocking implementation of the provisions of Law 27 of 1995 regarding the private sector's participation in the development of vacant, state-owned land for housing welfare purposes. The cabinet has asked the municipal council to study and give its opinion on the report. The report states that numerous difficulties block implementation of the provisions of Law 27 of 1995. This law requires the Municipality of

Kuwait to prepare land allocated for private housing according to a skeleton plan and to remit that land, devoid of obstacles, within six months to the General Housing Welfare Agency for the construction of 30,000 lots, each with an area of 400 square meters. Compliance with this requirement is being precluded by the following:

1. The state land allocated for private housing under the skeleton plan can accommodate only 6,500 housing units.
2. The site approved for the 'Arifjan area, which accommodates 25,000-30,000 housing units, is not included in the existing skeleton plan. Also, it will take a long time to develop that site.
3. The law stipulates that the land remitted to the General Housing Welfare Agency be allocated for private housing purposes according to the skeleton plan. However, the land included in the existing skeleton plan cannot fulfill the requirements of the law.
4. The law obliges the municipality to remit land that is devoid of obstacles to the General Housing Welfare Agency. However, at most of the proposed sites, many of the obstacles that must be removed require modification of roads and the creation of long-term alternate sites.
5. It is impossible to supply electricity to 40,000 housing units within less than three years, which is the period stipulated by the law for approval of the development of the plots plus the period expected to be needed to complete the plots and build the housing units. The cost of building a new power station according to current prices is about 650 million Kuwaiti dinars.
6. The 40,000 housing units will require about 20 million gallons of fresh water daily. This in turn will require the assembly of four water trailers with a capacity for 6 million gallons per day at a total cost of about 70 million dinars. These water services can be provided in no less than three years if existing stations are expanded, and in five years if new stations are built.
7. Implementation of the law will require the granting of construction loans for the 40,000 plots as soon as the private sector finishes preparing the plots, which must happen within about two years to ensure compliance with the periods stipulated by the law. This means that 2.8 billion dinars (about \$9.335 billion) will have to be loaned to entitled persons within that two-year period.
8. Telephone lines for the 40,000 housing units will cost about 32 million dinars.
9. Existing primary roads will not be able to absorb the traffic expected to be generated in the areas of the 40,000 new housing units.

10. The new residential zones will require main sewage lines, a main pumping station, and branch pumping lines from the main station to the sewage processing station, all of which will cost an estimated 65 million dinars.

11. About 400,000 persons are expected to reside in the 40,000 housing units based on an average inferred from statistics. These residents will require about 20 health centers, which will cost 20 million dinars to equip.

12. Infrastructure projects and public utilities for the project will require 50,000 laborers. The construction of houses on the housing plots will require 160,000 laborers.

13. It is impossible for the General Housing Welfare Agency to prepare and announce invitations to bid for the private sector and documents and books pertaining to terms for 30,000 plots within six months of the law's effective date. That is the period in which the municipality, as stipulated by the law, must prepare the land allocated for these plots, prepare layout plans of the plots, and deliver the plots devoid of obstacles. Also, the General Housing Welfare Agency is required to receive contractors' bids on projects and to start work on these large projects at the same time, which makes it difficult for the agency, given its current resources, to monitor and supervise the work.

14. Numerous negative factors could arise from the implementation of this law in its current form.

15. Implementation of the law would require the appropriation of about 5 billion dinars within two years, which exceeds the size of the state budget during this period.

Qatar

Qatari Airways Denies Plans To Open Tel Aviv Route

JN2911152295 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Ali Bin-Jabr Al Thani, Qatari Airways executive president, has denied reports that his company plans to open an air route to Tel Aviv airport.

In a statement to the Qatari News Agency, he said these report are unfounded and the company does not have any plans to open such a route.

Saudi Arabia**King Fahd Hospitalized for 'Ordinary' Check-Ups***LD3011064095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0430 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[Statement issued by the Royal Court; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques — may God support him — has been admitted to the King Faysal specialized hospital in Riyadh in order to undergo some ordinary medical check-ups. May God protect him from any discomfort and keep him in good health.

Arab Leaders Inquire About King Fahd's Health*LD3011121695 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Their excellencies and highnesses, leaders of a number of Arab and Gulf states, made telephone calls this morning to be assured about the health of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him.

These calls were made by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister in Kuwait, His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh Khalifah

Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces.

United Arab Emirates**Iranian Economic Minister Inspects Free Trade Zone***LD2811232395 Tehran IRNA in English
2102 GMT 28 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai (UAE), Nov 28 (IRNA) — Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Morteza Mohammad-Khani in his visit to the Jabal-Ali Free Trade Zone near here today, held a meeting with the head of Dubai's ports and shipping organization and the free trade zone, Sultan Bin Salim.

In the meeting, the two sides reviewed prospects of investment in Dubai's Free Trade Zone.

Mohammad-Khani, referring to the trade exchanges between ~~Dan~~ and Dubai underlined the need for further expansion of mutual economic cooperation between the two sides.

At the end of the meeting the Iranian minister also inspected the industrial sites and companies at the Jabal-Ali Port.

The volume of exports of goods to Iran fetches the emirate over dlr. one billion annually.

Ekeus Reports Progress in Talks With Officials

JN2911133695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1247 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Security Council's Special Commission, today said that he made progress in talks held with Iraqi officials during his recent visit.

In a news conference before leaving Baghdad, Ekeus added that the biological field is particularly important, in addition to the chemical and missile fields. He said: We received information from Iraq which seems to be useful to us, but it needs further verification and study by experts.

Asked about the results of his visit to the Gulf states, Ekeus said: The visit was useful. I explained to them the UN endeavors to dispel their fear of biological weapons and that our report in this regard will benefit Iraq and the United Nations because it will create an atmosphere of satisfaction in the Security Council.

Ekeus added that Iraq did not set a date for the Special Commission's conclusion of its work. He said: I am satisfied with the results of talks and understanding between the two parties and with the increasing confidence between us in order to move forward. We are making a very great effort to verify the memos and documents Iraq has submitted to us.

Regarding U.S. statements on maintaining the embargo on Iraq for at least another year, Ekeus said he had no knowledge of such statements. He said that at any rate he advises all Security Council member states, including the United States, to abide by the provisions of the Security Council resolutions.

He voiced satisfaction with the central Iraqi authorities' cooperation with him in supplying information to the committee, indicating that the Iraqi authorities have tackled the problems concerning this matter in an extremely positive way and adopted effective measures for open and serious cooperation with the Special Commission, something which gives him the feeling that progress has been made in this regard.

Rolf Ekeus left Baghdad today after a three-day visit to Iraq, during which he met with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the ministers of foreign affairs, oil, and transport and communications, with whom he held technical and political talks.

Further on Ekeus Comments

JN2911192795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, by unidentified correspondents in Baghdad; date not given — recorded, in English with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency the Ambassador: Days before your arrival in Baghdad, the media said the visit was not to obtain information. So, what was the purpose of the visit?

[Ekeus] The purpose of my visit is to prepare a new report for the Security Council, and the visit is also part of the ongoing dialogue between Iraq and the Special Commission to clarify pending problems and to solve or reduce the number of these problems.

Indeed we have held two kinds of talks, technical and political. The political talks were important and contained new important information, including clues that will help us liquidate the weapons of mass destruction. We have to study and analyze this information through our experts. But we feel that the atmosphere of the talks was good and that the visit was positive.

[Correspondent] What is new in your current visit to Iraq?

[Ekeus] We received a large amount of information during our previous visit, and we are still working on it. Two weeks ago, Iraq presented a clear file of its chemical and biological weapons, as well as of its missile area. This information is being analyzed now, and it must be backed by evidence, including original documents. We almost always receive such documents. The Iraqi authorities are successful in finding more documents to help us. I cannot make any judgment until the experts analyze the information.

Writer Says Ekeus Gulf Statements 'Malicious'

JN3011105895 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic
25 Nov 95 p 3

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi: "What Lies Behind Ekeus' Suspect Statements?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before and during his Gulf tour, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus made a series of interesting statements that were biased and hardly objective. The chief of the UN Security Council's Special Commission [UNSCOM] said his visit to the Gulf capitals — which is absolutely unwarranted — was meant for political and financial reasons.

First of all, Ekeus does not have to undertake any personal effort to look for sources to finance his inspection teams that visit Iraq to scrap the so-called weapons of mass destruction. This is the job of the United Nations and its influential member states which have been practicing custodianship and hegemony over Security Council resolutions.

Second, the mission of the UNSCOM chief is an executive one, according to Section C of Resolution 687. So it is not a political mission. This means that the UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency have been assigned the job of destroying the weapons which the Security Council prevented Iraq from possessing in the aftermath of the cease-fire in February 1991. Once it has finished its assignment, the UNSCOM is asked to submit a report to the Security Council to consider the implementation of Article 22 of Resolution 687.

Third, the selection of Ekeus to this post was no coincidence. This was done to carry out a role that covers up for a conspiratorial objective that lies behind the policy and stands of U.S. imperialism toward the Iraq of Saddam Husayn before and after the Mother of Battles epic.

Fourth, since April 1991, Iraq has been honestly cooperating with the UNSCOM to implement Resolution 687 in line with a legal and technical interpretation. Iraq has rejected any tendentious political dimensions for this resolution, which Washington has been seeking to impose. This legal view of UNSCOM's work is shared by Russia, France, and China, which are permanent member states of the Security Council, as well as the nonaligned nations who are members of the Security Council.

Fifth, following the defection of traitor Husayn Kamil, Iraq hastened to invite the UNSCOM chief to provide him with information and documents that had been concealed by the defector. Iraq sought to show its goodwill and eagerness to enable the UNSCOM to finish its mission as quickly as possible. This is meant to put an end to the suffering of our steadfast, patient people. This is also what we plan to do when Ekeus comes to Baghdad on 27 November.

Sixth, Ekeus' suspect statements during his Gulf tour were marked by exaggeration and blackmail. This is not only meant to get more funds for UNSCOM work, as Ekeus claimed, but is also meant to contain the public sympathy in the Arabian Gulf with the Iraqi people and to bury the initiative of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates, which calls for Arab reconciliation and lifting the unjust Iraq embargo. The United States, Britain, and their agents

responded negatively to Shaykh Zayid's noble appeal. They imposed a blackout on this appeal and continued to depict Iraq as a threat to the region's security and stability. They did this to maintain U.S. military deployment in the Gulf and to milk the remaining petrodollars in the coffers of some Gulf nations.

Seventh, Ekeus' statements seek, in a malicious and mean way, to contain the positive results of the Great March Day and the Iraqi people's unanimous election of President Saddam Husayn for another seven-year term. In addition, Ekeus' vindictive statements are meant to absorb the overwhelming support of nongovernmental organizations worldwide and the reports submitted by international organizations, the last being a report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on a threat of genocide facing the Iraqi nation as a result of a shortage in medicine and malnutrition.

Awareness of this U.S. scheme and its executive tools and evil objectives requires doing away with all the pretexts used by the UNSCOM chief to enable him to finish his mission quickly and have the embargo lifted in accordance with Article 22 of Resolution 687, since Iraq has essentially fulfilled its obligations toward this resolution.

The Security Council has recently lifted the economic sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro (former Yugoslavia) in line with the Dayton accord, having already eased some sanctions imposed under Resolution 841. The same should apply to the Iraq embargo, since Iraq has taken significant steps to implement these resolutions. Why this use of double standards?

The Security Council's tough stand toward Iraq and Libya is a purely U.S. decision. This embodies arrogance and control of the will of the international organization. The international community and its humanitarian organizations must immediately put and end to this situation.

Oil Minister Discusses Cooperation With UN
AU2911154295 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER
RUNDSCHAU in German 29 Nov 95 p 7

[Interview with Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid by Gudrun Harrer in Vienna; date not given: "We Are Now Breathing a Very Healthy Air in Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Harrer] You are responsible for cooperation with the UN special commission that verifies the fulfillment of the UN resolutions after the Gulf war. Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus recently stated that Iraqi officials have indicated that there might be actions — including the taking of hostages — if

relations between the United Nations and Iraq were to deteriorate.

[Rashid] That is completely unfounded. We are cooperating well with the United Nations. However, of course, the special commission is under pressure. Our enemies try to create problems, in particular when everything works normally — if there are real problems no one gets involved, because then we look bad enough.

[Harrer] The threat was meant for the case the that United Nations does not appropriately reward Iraq's readiness for cooperation by lifting the sanctions.

[Rashid] When we fulfill our obligations and the commission adheres to its mandate, there should not be any reason for confrontation. Ekeus should tell the UN Security Council that Iraq is completely ready to cooperate and transparent.

[Harrer] That was said already in the past. After the flight of Husayn Kamil in August the United Nations was given several hundred thousand pages of new material on the Iraqi weapons programs.

[Rashid] With his flight General Husayn Kamil eliminated the main obstacle to full cooperation with the United Nations. Some information was held back upon his special order, which was in complete contradiction to the instructions from our leadership.

[Harrer] Probably more than just some information.

[Rashid] No, this is exaggerated, as usual. For instance, in connection with biological weapons: Basically, there is only one relevant point that was hidden on Husayn Kamil's orders. There were so many activities that, in reality, did not lead to anything: During the war with Iran so many things were thought up to end the war; every specialist had his own ideas. However, these were projects to end the war, which were all stopped prematurely — I think there were nine of them.

[Harrer] But the biological material, which is now missing — was it not bought only after the Iran-Iraq war?

[Rashid] No, it was bought during its final stages. However, it was kept after the war.

[Harrer] Can you prove that this material has been destroyed?

[Rashid] First, the United Nations must be given complete, coherent, credible information, which must still be verified. We have almost completed this first stage. However, we have also made progress with the second stage. We have shown the commission the place where the biological material was destroyed. But the destruction took place some years ago and is difficult to verify.

The United Nations is sure that this was done, but they cannot yet verify the quantity within an error margin of 10 percent.

[Harrer] You say Iraq has presented a "final and complete report."

[Rashid] A draft.

[Harrer] Is this the first time?

[Rashid] No.

[Harrer] This is embarrassing for those who believed the earlier — incorrect — reports or drafts.

[Rashid] But the state of affairs is almost the same as in earlier reports, apart from a few unimportant points.

[Harrer] Goran Wallen, director of the BMVC (Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Center), for instance, recently told me that it is new that Iraq was able to produce missiles on its own.

[Rashid] There are some new things, but they are completely unimportant. This is also recognized at the practical level, but it is played up in the media for political reasons. There is hardly anything new in the sector of chemical weapons, either. Only two experiments were not revealed.

[Harrer] The production of VX gas (which is several times more poisonous than sarin, for instance — the editor).

[Rashid] No, this was known. Only the beginning of the production was kept hidden — perhaps the responsible person was not there at that time.

[Harrer] This means no VX gas is missing?

[Rashid] We have shown the commission where it was destroyed, and we have invited them to verify it. There were also special orders from Husayn Kamil regarding the nuclear program. There was this crash program (after the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 — the editor). But even the International Atomic Energy Agency says that it was completely unrealistic. We have now instructed everyone involved: Whatever kind of information you have, pass it on, even if it seems to be completely unimportant.

[Harrer] You say that every time when cooperation with the United Nations works well, one of Iraq's enemies comes and tries to disturb cooperation. I am thinking of Ekeus' comments: Could it not be that there are people also in Baghdad who might be interested in having the embargo maintained?

[Rashid] Why should they?

[Harrer] Because they earn a lot of money with it.

[Rashid] But this is the beautiful thing about Husayn Kamil's flight: We have got rid of this disease.

[Harrer] He was the only one who was the disease?

[Rashid] Yes, he was a cancerous growth. We are now breathing a very healthy air in Baghdad.

[Harrer] You were his closest associate.

[Rashid] His right-hand man.

[Harrer] Did you know about his machinations?

[Rashid] I was and still am responsible for the negotiations with the UN commission and for the management of the military industry. Well, I had two problems: Ekeus was sitting on one side, Husayn Kamil on the other. There were no problems with my government; I had clear instructions to cooperate. But Husayn Kamil kept interfering all the time to disturb my relationship with the leadership. As regards corruption: A lot was talked about in the streets. Everyone knew it; on the other hand, one was not quite sure whether this was not just anti-government propaganda. Nor was it my job to deal with this. On the day of his departure \$8.7 million were missing. How did this happen? Two weeks before his flight he summoned two people and said: "The entire nation is in danger, there will be a military confrontation with the Americans. We must save our hard currency, this is the president's order." The two were very proud of the trust they were shown. He threatened them with severe punishment if they talked about this. Please, write this, I could swear on the Quran that this is true. Husayn Kamil nominated one of the two, who was permitted to take the money — several hundred thousand in several installments — to a "very safe place." The man had access to this place at any time; the general had instructed his special guard. Under normal circumstances it was completely impossible to enter Husayn Kamil's office. Only this poor guy was permitted to do that. Two days before he fled Husayn Kamil said: now it is enough, as of now we will take the money to another place. Of course, he was only afraid that the man might catch him when he fled.

[Harrer] Who bears responsibility in Iraq?

[Rashid] Even though Husayn Kamil was only a minister, nothing more, as the former security chief he had access to a great deal of power. He was a criminal person. He would have gotten rid of anyone who barred his way. I, for instance, always tried to keep him in a good mood. He would have simply eliminated me if he had felt like it.

Paper Calls U.S. Sponsor of 'Terrorism'

JN2911130295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0900 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper said that the United States has been the sponsor and organizer of all forms and activities of international terrorism since World War II.

In an expanded report entitled "The United States and International Terrorism," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH issued here today says: International terrorism has been, and continues to be, Washington's favorite weapon which is used under various banners, names, and covers.

AL-THAWRAH adds that under the cold war circumstances and on the pretext of the strategic confrontation with the Soviet Union and the former Socialist bloc, Washington, since World War II, used to adopt intelligence plans and programs designed to attract and mobilize mafia networks, organized crime gangs, mercenaries, trouble-making currents, and extremist right-wing movements.

The paper points out that following World War II and after Washington ascertained the success of its experimental cooperation with the Italian mafia, the United States developed its plans and programs. Hence, part of the U.S. Central Intelligence [Agency] activity was adjusted into expanding and diversifying the secret networks, tightening the grip on them, and steering their activities in accordance with secret and carefully-prepared programs, so they turned into an integrated strategy. Meanwhile, international terrorism turned into an effective weapon in the conflict with the former Soviet Union.

AL-THAWRAH reviews the means the United States used to adapt international terrorism to its foreign policies. The paper says: The United States led, organized, and supervised activities hostile to the revolutionary movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It has also organized military coups and encouraged the assassination of individuals in any arena of conflict against enemies, foes, and competitors.

The paper adds: As all signs showed, the United States did not cancel the weapon of international terrorism after the cold war. It is now only trying to adapt and promote this weapon under the new international situation. The United States is launching a secret war using both old and new tools, networks, and formulas, which are designed to support U.S. foreign policy and its political and economic objectives by turning competition, even with allies, partners, and collaborators, into bitter

conflict using special means. By U.S. standards, these means are considered effective tools of pressure.

Giving an example of U.S. involvement in using international terrorism even against the closest U.S. allies, AL-THAWRAH says: The so-called tunnel war launched by the Japanese Aum Organization in March coincided with the escalating economic and trade competition between Washington and Tokyo at a time when no local or international party had any interest in, or justification for, carrying out such operations, except for Washington which was expressing its anger at the Japanese intransigence and at Tokyo's refusal to yield to the extortionist U.S. terms.

The report also reviews the explosions which occurred in France as well as Washington's interest in creating tension and temporary crises whenever it deems them fit. This is because the United States strongly objects to the French policies on European unity and to the building of France's own political, economic, and military entity as well as France's endeavors, under President Jacques Chirac, to develop its nuclear arsenal which constitutes the protecting umbrella for a united Europe. Washington considers this as an alternative to its nuclear umbrella in Europe, something which irritates the United States and prompts it to pressure France through various means.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The bombings in the subway stations in Paris and other French cities actually aimed to intimidate French public opinion. At the same time, Washington instigates the internal and external forces opposed to the French nuclear tests to escalate their activities and to pressure France into reconsidering and deferring the development of its nuclear umbrella for Europe.

Former French Chief of Staff Lacaze Pays Visit

Meets With Saddam

*JN2911173095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1500 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received General Jeannou Lacaze, former French chief of staff, and his delegation made up of French Senate members.

The president stressed that long ago, in circumstances that were different from the current ones, Iraq chose to establish distinguished ties of friendship and cooperation with France, based on its strategic concept that relates to its independent course and view of relations between the Arab nation and Europe.

His excellency also stressed that the unilateral hegemony over the region in particular, and the world in

general, threatens the independence of the world, including Europe, and its legitimate national interests.

General Lacaze stressed the importance of resuming the distinguished ties of friendship and cooperation that existed between Iraq and France and the need to lift the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq. He voiced his and his delegation's sympathy with the Iraqi people for the suffering they endure because of the embargo.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Confers With Agriculture Minister

*JN2911180895 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Agriculture Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Ilah Hamid today met with General Jeannou Lacaze, former French chief of staff, and his delegation comprising members of the Senate as well as French industrialists and businessmen.

During the meeting, Gen. Lacaze underlined the French delegation's desire to develop relations in the agricultural field between the two countries. He noted that the French companies are prepared to provide the necessary agricultural requirements to Iraq.

Holds Talks With al-Sahhaf

*JN2911205895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1940 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today met with a French Senate delegation, headed by General Jeannou Lacaze, French Senate member and former French chief of staff, currently visiting Baghdad.

The foreign minister reviewed the regional and international grounds and dimensions which confirm that the vital interests of Iraq and France converge in a manner that helps strengthen their ties and their joint action to overcome the difficulties, at head of which is the effort to lift the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq.

Gen. Lacaze and members of his delegation said they are convinced that the ties of friendship linking France and Iraq provide a basic ground for the growth and prosperity of relations between the two countries. They also expressed their desire to work on creating the appropriate circumstances to strengthen and develop these relations. They also stressed that once they return to France, they will continue their efforts to improve understanding between the two countries and peoples and will convey to the French officials and people everything they saw and heard in Iraq in order to

increase French efforts to expedite an end to the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq.

The two sides also discussed several issues of mutual concern on the international, regional, and bilateral levels.

Sudanese Minister Visits, Discusses Cooperation

Meets Finance Minister

JN2911165995 *Baghdad INA in Arabic*
1405 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir today met with Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, and his delegation. The Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad attended.

The conferees discussed cooperation between the two sisterly states.

Meets Irrigation Minister

JN2911201695 *Baghdad INA in Arabic*
1510 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Nov (INA)—Irrigation Minister Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad today received Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs.

The two officials discussed cooperation between the two sisterly states in the field of implementing joint irrigation projects to realize their common interests and strengthen their ties.

Sudanese State Minister Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman praised relations between the two sisterly states and the march of jihad and construction pursued by the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Regime Reportedly Launches 'Arrest Campaign'

NC2911165195 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of Iraqi People*
in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The oppressive authorities of Saddam's dictatorial regime have launched a wide-scale arrest campaign in Karkuk and its surroundings. Reports state that 54 people have been arrested and taken to Karkuk prison, where they are being tortured and persecuted.

Meanwhile, the regime's intelligence and security service continues pressuring Karkuk's Kurdish families to leave their homes and go to the Kurdish-held areas in northern Iraq. This step by the regime is a part of a systematic eviction campaign.

'Udayy Reelected Student Union President

JN2911191695 *Baghdad Iraq Television Network*
in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Report over video from "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iraqi student councils have unanimously renewed confidence in 'Udayy Saddam Husayn as president of the Executive Council of the National Union of Iraqi Students (NUIS) and decided to give him the powers of the general assembly. This emerged in a conference to renew confidence in the NUIS Executive Bureau which was attended by comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, acting secretary of the Central Students and Youth Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. [passage omitted] [video shows 'Abd-al-Ghafur and NUIS members speaking at the meeting. No picture of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn observed in the video clip]

Report on Army Movements, Powers of Saddam's Sons

JN2911203995 *Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic*
29 Nov 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Travelers from Baghdad said movements by the Iraqi Army at the outskirts of Baghdad on the north and the south raise many questions, especially following the statements made by Muhammad Bakir al-Hakim in which he spoke about the need to begin military operations against the Iraqi regime.

Al-Hakim has said that military action against the regime requires army support, especially since the action will be carried out from two directions; the first will be in the form of launching attacks from the north assisted by the Kurds and the opposition forces, and the second from the south, "the Shiites," who are under the fire of army forces that support Saddam.

Al-Hakim has urged the people in central Iraq "the Sunnis" to move, and said the Iraqi regime antagonized all sectors of the people. It fought the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south. He said it is time for all Iraqi people to confront the regime.

Meanwhile, the travelers said the changes introduced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn have been unacceptable to the Iraqi people, who view these changes as nothing.

The Iraqi president made changes in the public security and military security organs, and relieved his half brother Sab'awi Ibrahim from the command of Public Security Department and appointed Tariq Hababi, who was the commander of the military security organ.

The travelers said the decision to suspend Sab'awi was made after the suspension of Wathan Ibrahim al-Hasan, and the two decisions were made three months before the defection of Husayn Kamil, but the implementation was delayed as a result of the Husayn Kamil problem so that the sacking would not seem as though Saddam were reducing the influence of his family.

As for his sons 'Udayy and Qusayy, the travelers said 'Udayy still enjoys his powers. He controls the ministries and foreign trade, in addition to his control of Saddam's Commandos. In spite of this control, the president depends on his second son Qusayy, who is in charge of the Republican Guards and the president's special guards, and in charge of opening and closing Baghdad's entrances when there is a need.

They said that this responsibility shows that the Iraqi regime has become fearful of rebellions in the army units, which suffer from difficult circumstances.

Oppositionist Comments on King Husayn's 'Plan'
NC2211205895 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic* 1730 GMT 22 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Sami Faraj 'Ali, member of a "new opposition grouping," in London, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Mr. Sami Faraj 'Ali. We have heard that meetings were held between some of King Husayn's aides and some leading Iraqi opposition figures in London. What information do you have about this issue?

['Ali] We have heard and confirmed that the delegation that accompanied King Husayn first contacted Majid al-Khu'i, who operates from London. Al-Khu'i arranged two meetings in his office. Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, Layth Qubbah, 'Ali 'Allawi, Hani al-Fukayki, Muwaffaq al-Rubay'i, Hamdi Majid, and others met with the Jordanian officials. The conferees touched on King Husayn's plan and his forthcoming invitation to some Iraqi opposition parties to meet in Amman. The Jordanian delegation reiterated King Husayn's public statements and asked the Iraqis present to voice their views on this plan. The delegation asked them how willing they were to accept this invitation and the ideas of reconciliation between the Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds and of a tripartite or quadripartite federation in Iraq on the basis of partitioning Iraq into communal and ethnic regions and of linking these regions and this federation to another federation involving Jordan and possibly another country.

According to the information we have received, there was a heated debate during this meeting between Bahr-

al-'Ulum, Hamdi Majid, and 'Ali 'Allawi. The meeting ended with an invitation from 'Ali al-Fukayki to hold another meeting at his house. That's what has happened so far.

[Hasan] According to your information, what were the stands of the Iraqi opposition figures in London toward King Husayn's plan?

['Ali] Splits in the Iraqi opposition figures' stands have emerged right from the beginning. Some are opting for or leaning toward responding to Jordan out of desperation or in the hope that this is the only way to bring about the expected changes in Iraq. Others are wagering on King Husayn's status and Jordan's weight, which could give this move the political upper hand.

There are those who believe that King Husayn is not acting unilaterally in this plan but has the support of the United States and Britain. There are recent reports that Kuwait could be behind the plan propagated by King Husayn, especially on the issue of federalism in Iraq. But other parties have started to publicly voice their opposition to this plan and point out its dangers. These parties are saying that King Husayn's plan for federation and partitioning of the Iraqi people on an ethnic and communal basis could lead to future massacres in Iraq and could turn this country into a new Yugoslavia in the Middle East. They add that this would not end the existing problem in Iraq but would take it in another direction. There are also those who are saying that this move by Jordan and King Husayn might benefit Saddam Husayn in the end because it is raising fears inside the Iraqi military, security, and party establishments. Hence it induces the Sunni forces still supporting the regime to rally behind and cooperate with Saddam Husayn to prevent what they term as the dangers originating from Jordan from happening.

At any rate, once the picture becomes totally clear, we expect some Iraqi parties to voice their views frankly in statements or conferences in the very near future. But the real plan and its true objectives are still shrouded in ambiguity. There are press leaks and political statements, specifically represented by King Husayn's statements inside and outside Jordan and by the recent statements made by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to the London-based Saudi based AL-WASAT magazine. In these statements, Khaddam warned of a plan to partition Iraq into several states as the first step toward partitioning the Arab region. Khaddam attributed and linked this plan to Israel. He said that it serves Israeli policy in the Middle East in the long term. He added: Beginning now, Syria is getting ready to resist this plan. But he did not shed enough light on the real powers behind this plan or those involved in

it. This is an early signal that reveals Syria's intentions and stand on this plan.

In daily meetings occurring in London, I have sensed this split among Iraqi opposition circles and their confusion because they lack accurate information. Hence, some of the Iraqis residing in London — such as

Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, Sa'd Salih Jabr, Hani al-Fukayki, Riyad al-Yawar, 'Adnan al-Bajaji, Hasan Chalabi, and others — have asked the Jordanian ambassador in London to arrange a meeting with King Husayn during the latter's current visit. But no reply to these requests has been received to date.

Ministers Meet To Discuss Lebanon Situation

TA2911174395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, convened his ministers this morning in order to discuss the katyusha attacks from Lebanon. A few ministers demanded immediate, wide-scale action in retaliation for the shelling; however, Prime Minister Peres, together with most of the participants in today's meeting, expressed opposition to this. Our political correspondent Udi Segal is in the studio with the details:

[Segal] Good evening, the consultations Peres held with his ministers this morning actually constituted the first session of the inner cabinet, although such a body has not yet been officially formed by the recently established Peres government. Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers briefed the ministers in detail on the katyusha attacks. The reason for the shelling, in the IDF's assessment, was the Israeli air raid at the beginning of the week in which several Hizballah leaders were killed in south Lebanon. The Syrians did not know of the Hizballah katyusha attacks in advance, security officials said, and there was no coordination between Damascus and the terrorists. Despite the large number of katyusha rockets that landed in northern Israel, the shelling was a localized reaction.

Two of the ministers urged a forceful and harsh response. Energy Minister Gonen Segev and Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal called for an immediate, wide-scale IDF operation in Lebanon. The other ministers, including Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, were opposed to this. We do not need to impress anyone, Peres said. When we have to retaliate, we will do so with all our might. The IDF's instructions in south Lebanon remain the same: to strike whenever possible at pinpointed targets, while doing all it can to avoid harming civilians.

[A similar report on the minister's meeting by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 29 November adds that "although the reason for the katyusha volleys remains unclear, officials mentioned that Hizballah leaders had recently presented new justifications to attack Israel such as the destruction of houses in south Lebanon, the arrest of Lebanese fishermen, and the air raid on al-Na'imah. Prime Minister Peres noted the link between the political process with the Syrians and possible military reactions against Hizballah. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz adds that Minister Yosi Beilin said that the function of the security zone should be reexamined."]

Peres Empowered To Decide on Lebanon

TA3011103195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Nov 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Aluf Ben, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres was yesterday empowered to use his own discretion and, until 3 December, decide on the ordering of a military operation in Lebanon in reaction to the firing of katyushas at the Galilee settlements two days ago.

This resolution was made at the close of the ministerial consultation yesterday, which Peres convened, and in which the ministers heard reports and discussed operations plans. The consultation was not formally defined an Inner Cabinet session because the new cabinet has not yet decided on the composition of that forum.

Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, presented the ministers with an operations plan for south Lebanon and expressed his support for carrying it out. Peres did not immediately approve the operation. Government sources estimated yesterday that Peres would rather consider the issue before deciding in order to prevent an escalation. Peres and Shahaq will meet again today.

Other ministers, including Moshe Shahal and Gonen Segev, were in favor of launching an immediate retaliation operation, urging that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] regain the initiative. The prime minister was against it, claiming that we do not need to impress anyone, and there is no need for spectacular operations.

Ministers Shulamit Aloni, Ya'ir Tzaban, and Yosi Beilin were against a military operation, claiming that since the United States had asked Israel and Syria to act with restraint, an Israeli retaliation might offend the United States.

Intelligence sources told the ministers that the katyushas were apparently fired in retaliation for the severe damage the IDF has lately inflicted on Hizballah. They added that it appears that the Syrians were not aware in advance of the decision to launch the katyushas. [passage omitted]

Or: Hizballah, Lebanon, Syria To 'Pay' for Attacks

TA2911174595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or says Israel will make Hizballah, Lebanon, and Syria pay the price for katyusha rocket attacks into northern Israel. Making his first appearance in the Knesset in his new capacity, Or said Israel would not look for an

overnight solution to the problem and would proceed with negotiations with Syria. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin Ze'ev recording] Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or said Israel is considering a response which will point out to Hizballah, the Syrians, and the Lebanese Government that not only Israel will pay the price of the Hizballah attacks. On the other hand, the new deputy defense minister said Jerusalem is guided by the principle that the problem cannot be resolved overnight. He was referring to the call within the opposition for a major Israeli offensive. Though he admitted that Syria could stop Hizballah, Deputy Minister Or stressed the Lebanese responsibility to act against the organization. Katyusha rockets are also flying over residents in southern Lebanon, for whom the Lebanese Government bears responsibility, he said. The deputy defense minister ridiculed the Beirut government as practically not functioning. He said peace negotiations with Syria do not even exist, but such negotiations in the future will not prevent Israel from operating to secure the northern part of the country. [end recording]

Opposition Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu and Labor Party secretary Nisim Zvili both visited Qiryat Shemona this morning to assess the situation. Zvili said afterward that he would ask the prime minister and housing minister to take all the necessary steps to ensure that all homes in the northern villages are equipped with security rooms. Netanyahu said that the government will receive full backing from the opposition if it takes a hard line against Hizballah and demands that Syria stop terror. He later spoke to reporter Amy Rhodes.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] I think that what is required is action. Inaction will not do the job. The action first begins on the political front, by making it clear to Syria that the first item on any peace talks is the cessation of Syrian license to Hizballah to conduct terrorist attacks against Israel.

Secondly, I think that we have to understand that all the so-called understandings with Hizballah have collapsed, and we have to ensure that a new understanding prevails; namely, that Hizballah understands that if they attack our towns and villages in the north then we will attack them with seven-fold force. I think that this idea that they can attack us with impunity has to end, or they will continue to attack us with greater intensity.

[Rhodes] Are you satisfied that these suggestions that you have are going to be carried out?

[Netanyahu] I don't know if they'll be carried out. For the moment I don't know what the government has decided, but I can say that if the government decides to act in this firm political and military line —

firmly politically against Syria, firmly militarily against Hizballah — I am confident that they will enjoy the support of the opposition.

[Rhodes] Will you be holding consultations with Defense Minister Peres?

[Netanyahu] Well, if he will request those consultations, of course, but I think right now it's the government's responsibility and its decision to formulate policy. I think to return to business as usual means that we'll return to rocketing as usual and to further Hizballah attacks against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, and that is not something that we can countenance. We should end it in any case. [end recording]

IDF Announces Air Raid on Targets in Lebanon
TA2911153095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that Air Force planes raided terrorist targets in the 'Ayn al-Tinah area in south Lebanon this afternoon. All our planes returned safely. [passage omitted]

Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or stated in the Knesset today that the IDF has done almost everything possible in south Lebanon. According to him, Syria could rein Hizballah in, but the Lebanese Government must also be held responsible.

Baraq: 'Very Serious' About Agreement With Syria
TA2911174895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1605 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Studio talk between anchorwoman Goni Mardor-Biran and political correspondent Shlomo Raz — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mardor-Biran] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq said today that Israel is very serious about an arrangement with Syria. Baraq met this afternoon in his office with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk, who will be leaving Jerusalem en route to Damascus for talks. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the studio. Do we have a new mediator in the region?

[Raz] I would not call him a mediator. Mediation remains the exclusive job of the Americans. In other words, the Americans will play the most central, senior, and perhaps even exclusive role in the mediation between Israel and Syria with the approval of both Damascus and Jerusalem. Nevertheless, Posuvalyuk is definitely considered an expert on the Middle East, and officials in Jerusalem do not ignore his assessments. Quite the contrary, they view them with utmost seriousness.

It seems to me that the definition given by a senior political source — an effective channel — aptly characterizes Posuvalyuk's role, at least as senior sources in Jerusalem see it.

This afternoon, in the first meeting held by the two men in Baraq's new capacity, Baraq told Posuvalyuk that — and I am quoting him — Israel is very serious about an arrangement with Syria, but the big question is to what extent Syria thinks in terms of a genuine peace transcending written papers.

Both in his meeting with Baraq and in an earlier session with Prime Minister Peres, Posuvalyuk heard the same question: Is Syria prepared to have the kind of peace that exists between Israel and Jordan or is it striving for a written agreement on frozen peace, such as the peace between India and Pakistan? In other words, they would like to know what lies behind the soft tones being heard at the moment from Damascus, the tones Prime Minister Peres has been mentioning from time to time. Posuvalyuk believes that the peace between Israel and Syria will be warm. He will leave Jerusalem en route to Damascus and return here on Friday [1 December] to brief Minister Yosi Beilin.

Minister Baraq also told Posuvalyuk that Russia is definitely a serious and constructive partner, especially on the Syrian issue, which may answer your question about whether we have a new mediator. Apparently we do not, but he definitely is yet another source of information. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 29 November notes that Baraq further told the Russian visitor that "Israel does not hold Syria directly responsible for the katyusha attacks, but that it believes that Damascus could prevent Hizballah's activities against us."]

U.S. Paper's Report on Golan 'Firmly' Denied

TA3011051895 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0500 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Prime Minister's Bureau firmly denies a report published in THE WASHINGTON POST saying Israel has gone back on its demand for ground early-warning stations in the areas it will evacuate on the Golan Heights.

Our political correspondent was told that Israel is continuing to insist on this requirement.

Paper: U.S. 'Failed' To Halt Cash Flow to 'Extremists'

TA3011061695 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM REPORT in English* 14 Dec 95 p 8

[Report by Jon Broder in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidential decrees intended to shut the cash flow from Americans to Jewish terror groups in Israel have failed, and the movement of funds continues unabated, say U.S. supporters of and experts on the Israeli right.

In the spring of 1994, after settler Barukh Goldstein massacred 29 Palestinians in Hebron, President Clinton announced a crackdown on the flow of money from America to extremist groups in Israel. Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination prompted an official accounting of funds blocked so far. The total catch, says the Treasury Department: a whopping \$203.

U.S. officials won't speculate as to how much money is getting past decrees that are long on symbolism but short on teeth. But experts and U.S. supporters of the right told THE JERUSALEM REPORT the overall amount reaching West Bank settlers probably extends into tens of millions of dollars — and that some of it is reaching the most extreme elements.

U.S. officials have made no attempt to thwart the establishment of a New York hotline by Orthodox Jews to raise money for the legal defense of Rabin's assassin, whom they consider a hero. Moshe Gross, who is directing the fundraising effort, described hotline traffic as huge.

Kahana Hay got around the crackdown simply by announcing on the Internet that it had changed the name on its bank accounts to the Kfar Tapuah Fund, named after the group's West Bank settlement. Ian Lustick, a University of Pennsylvania expert on right-wing Jewish groups, told THE JERUSALEM REPORT the group returns checks made out to "Kahana Hay," advising donors to re-issue them in the name of the settlement's tax-deductible support fund.

Similarly, the New York-based Hebron Fund, Inc., headed by Orthodox Brooklyn Rabbi Irwin Pechman, has posted its bank account number on the Internet, funneling the undisclosed amount of money it collects to No'am Arnon, spokesman for the settlers who live in downtown Hebron.

The money flow might slow down if U.S. authorities were to take away the settlement support funds' tax-exempt status, based on their claims to be strictly religious and educational operations. Lustick maintains

the administration could easily point out the political mission behind the groups.

But that seems unlikely. Lustick recounts his experience when he called the IRS last year to report the bank account number and political advertisements of one tax-exempt settler support fund on the Internet. "The IRS refused to even respond. They told me I had to talk to the FBI," Lustick recalls. "I called the FBI, and they told me I had to talk to the district attorney's office. I spoke to the district attorney's office and they swore it was an IRS problem. Meanwhile, he says, the fund is still advertising on the Internet."

National Religious Camp Currents Viewed TA2911152395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The DAVAR SHENI supplement of Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew on 29 November publishes on pages 2 and 3 a report by Avner Hubstein, entitled: "National Religious Camp — a Guide to the Knitted Yarmulkes." The report consists of an introduction and five separate segments, one on each current within the national religious society.

Hubstein states that the prevailing belief that the "Zionist religious society" is monolithic is fallacious, since "it is a complex group composed of diverse currents, each with its own emphasis, tenets, and approach, and even its own different dress code." He notes that this sector, which has been dubbed the "knitted yarmulkes" society, is made up of five main currents. He quotes Professor Menahem Friedman from Bar-Ilan University's sociology department, who says that "a majority of the members of the modern religious Zionist society have a right-wing orientation and an above-average education." Social sciences Professor Eli'ezer Don-Ihya is quoted as saying that "the young generation grows up in an atmosphere of intense schooling, and it is getting increasingly closer to ultra-Orthodox Jewry."

The "mainstream" part of this group "is the largest, and it seems to be growing with time. The current comprises most of the hesder yeshivas [combining Torah studies with military service], high school yeshivas, Judea and Samaria settlements, and the supporters of their political way (those who believe in Greater Israel) who live inside the Green Line."

"The mainstream has become significantly more radical in its right-wing tendencies in recent years, the tone being dictated by the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva (whose members are called the 'Merkazniks'), which is headed by Rabbi Avraham Shapira, one of those responsible for the halakic edict calling on soldiers to refuse orders to evacuate settlements. The more prominent yeshivas follow in the footsteps of Merkaz Harav (with

a few exceptions, such as Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital's Har 'Etzyon Yeshiva, which is affiliated with the moderate stream). Despite the radicalization, the majority do not cross the lines, abandon Zionism, or question the legitimacy of state institutions."

"A certain tendency toward the ultra-Orthodox can be seen also in educational matters. 'There are less and less humanistic, liberal, classical, and universal studies, and there is more and more immersion in the study of religion.'"

The second reviewed sector, "the radical current," is "the post-Zionist group, which has lost all faith in the state and been swept into an illegitimate twilight zone, and which is much smaller than could be inferred from the furor it has created. Americans — 'the Americaners,' as they are dubbed by Prof. Friedman — are a very prominent element in the radical group, but it should be noted that most of the religious Israelis of North American origin are moderate, and that many members of the radical current are of European descent."

"Religious Americans who immigrate to Israel are usually idealists," says Prof. Friedman. "The radicals did not soak up the principles of classical religious Zionism (which promotes a religious lifestyle under the aegis of a secular democratic state), and their disappointment with the situation in Israel is quite acute." According to him, these people often become radical years after immigrating to Israel."

"Members of the Anglo-Saxon group are usually better educated and wealthier than the members of the other currents. Like the other members of the radical stream, they settle mostly in the peripheries of settlements: Qiryat Arba' and Kfar Tapuah, for instance. They usually find it easier to live among radicals like themselves, because in other places, they are seen as aberrations."

"The proportion of people of Anglo-Saxon origin in the moderate current, the so-called 'religious left wing,' is also quite large, and here, too, the ideals they brought with them are the decisive factor. This current comprises the moderate religious movements, such as Netivot Shalom, Law-Abiding Rabbis, and of course, Memad."

"Many members of this group have for many years battled against religious coercion and for women's equality. Most of Rabbi 'Amital's Har 'Etzyon Yeshiva students and quite a few members of religious kibbutzim also belong to this group. Pluralism is quite widely accepted by members of this current, and most have an extensive general education. There are large concentrations of members of this current in Jerusalem, but they can

also be found in Efrat and Ma'ale Adumim, for instance. Very few live in development towns.

"Many members of this current are pessimistic about their ability to have an impact. 'Memad and Netivot Shalom are impressive movements,' says Rabbi Mikha'el Nehora'i, a veteran fighter against religious coercion, 'but they do not have the necessary tools to shape the religious society, as evidenced by their inability to get elected to the Knesset.'"

Another group, "the religious kibbutzim, have been in political turmoil for years. Many have left the NRP [National Religious Party], their mother party, and some have found their political niche in Memad.

"Recently, the claim that radicalization has hit the religious kibbutzim is heard more and more frequently. Prof. Don-Ihya: 'The religious kibbutz, formerly the bastion of the moderately religious sector, is no longer what it used to be. They used to seek fraternity and partnership with the Labor movement on socialist grounds, among others, but in recent years a drift toward the radical right-wing has been noted there, too, although it is not as pronounced as in the mainstream camp.'"

The last group reviewed by Hubstein comprises Israelis of "North African origin." "They are inhabitants of moshavim established in the 1950's, such as Bareqet, Giv'at Koah, and Kefar Haro'e, which are mostly inhabited by immigrants from North Africa and are characterized by quite a few social problems. 'This is a more popular class of piousness,' says Tova Ilan, 'one that allows the people to choose which mitzvahs to observe (going to the temple, for instance) and which to abandon because they seem unnecessary and burdensome (they drive out for some entertainment after temple). Their social problems are similar to those experienced by the development towns: a feeling of discrimination, overcrowded housing, and a tendency to mix working for a living with political activities.

"The public of eastern origin is split between those of Moroccan descent and those from Yemen, although we do not fully understand the significance of this split,' says Prof. Friedman. 'It is a less educated public, and more moderate in its sense of piousness.' Moshavim members used to vote for the Likud, and David Levi is a typical example of a leader who has gained considerable strength among them. Another leader, the NRP's Avner Sciaki, was almost successful in carrying out a revolution by getting to the top with their help.

"One sub-faction comprises moshavim members who have drifted to the more radical ultra-Orthodox sector, to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], which as a party,

has offered them ethnic dignity, prestige, and family integrity, a value they deem important. That has created the ultranational (ultra-Orthodox-national) current, whose supporters believe in Zionism while piously observing religious mitzvahs with passion reminiscent of the ultra-Orthodox sector. (Yig'al 'Amir, with his large black yarmulke, is a representative of the ultranational. As his mother said, 'we are a right-wing ultra-Orthodox family.')"

Peres Meets With Rabbis, Promises Dialogue

TA2911095895 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS
OFFICE in English 28 Nov 95

[Communication issued by 'Aliza Goren, media adviser for Prime Minister Peres; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "As Foreign Minister I had to be concerned with peace abroad and as Prime Minister — with peace at home as well." So said Prime Minister Shim'on Peres today, (Tuesday) 28.11.95 at a meeting at Beit Hanassi with Israel's rabbis who represent various elements of the political spectrum. The rabbis wished that the Prime Minister and his Cabinet would "be able to fulfill their tasks peacefully, in good health and with God's help." The rabbis also asked the Prime Minister to work for unity and the moderation of statements against rabbis. Rabbi Metzger of Tel Aviv added that Peres was always considered an address for creating unity among the people. Rabbi Zelmanovich, head of the IRF [Israeli Rabbinical Forum] — rabbis who support the peace process — called for strengthening the unity of the people which, according to him, is more important than the unity of the land.

The Prime Minister stated that he was pleased by the NRP's [National Religious Party] de facto recognition of the peace process and that this is the right time to be magnanimous towards the opposition. Said Peres, "We will keep an account with the opposition — not the opponents. [sentence as received] We must meet with the settlers and take them into consideration, but no one received authorization to murder or to sanction murder. This must be unequivocal." The Prime Minister added that there can be no common denominator if they believe that democracy is subordinate to Jewish law.

The Prime Minister advised the rabbis that he intends to establish a committee to address the conversion issue. With respect to the archaeological digs, Peres said that he will issue instructions to respect the law as well as the rabbis. At the end of the meeting, the Prime Minister assured the rabbis that the dialogue will continue.

Ministry Earmarks Funds for Rural Settlements*TA3011103895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew**30 Nov 95 p A1***[Report by 'Amiram Kohen]**

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 124 million new Israeli shekels [NIS] from the Agriculture Ministry's 1996 budget have been earmarked for investments in settlements on the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Qatif Bloc. Budgets for the latter will be given within the framework of allocations for Negev settlements.

Some 21.7 million NIS have been earmarked for encouraging rural Golan settlements; 21.4 million NIS are slated for Jordan Rift Valley settlements; 23.8 million NIS will be paid to West Bank settlements; Qatif Bloc settlements were allocated 15.9 million NIS; 38.1 million NIS are earmarked for general purpose operations in the territories; and 3.6 million NIS were allocated for new settlement reserves. These budgets exclude benefits and grants allocated to the Qatif Bloc settlers for the development of hothouses and fish pools within the framework of the Negev Growth Project.

Prof. 'Amiram Goldblum and Mosi Raz, heads of the Peace Now monitoring team, wrote letters to Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Agriculture Minister Ya'akov Tzur demanding that the allocations be canceled. They claim that the allocations "discriminate against Israeli farmers while distributing generous grants to settlements that harm the peace process."

Border Police Kidnapped, Released by Palestinians*TA3011063495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English**0500 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two Israel border policemen kidnapped by Palestinian gunmen have been released unhurt. The men were kidnapped last night after Israeli troops surrounded a cafe in Qabatiyah beside Janin, where a wanted man had taken refuge. The wanted gunman is now in custody of Palestinian Police. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami has been following the developments throughout the night:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] The night-long drama began at about 2000, when Samir Zakarnah was spotted by Israelis in the village of Qabatiyah, close to Janin. Zakarnah had been given a life sentence by Israel for killing a number of Palestinians, but was later released as part of the agreement with the PLO on condition that he stayed in Jericho. Instead, however, he came to the Janin area and continued to act against Palestinians he believed had aided Israel.

Last night, according to the Palestinians, he was spotted by an Israeli undercover unit carrying a gun in Qa-

batiyah, which is one of the villages in Area B of the Oslo agreement, where Israel continues to have freedom of movement and overall responsibility for security. The wanted gunman in Qabatiyah ran away and took refuge in a coffee shop with some 30 people inside. There, Zakarnah and the people with him shut the cafe doors and refused calls by Israeli troops who surrounded the building that the gunman come out.

As the standoff continued, the border policemen were kidnapped. According to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the two men, an officer and a policeman, were traveling in their private car in Janin when they were stopped by a group of armed men and taken prisoner to the refugee camp in the town. According to one version, they were going home from their base in the Janin area, but it's not clear what the two were doing in Janin itself, the first town to be handed over to complete Palestinian autonomy control earlier this month.

The kidnappers, members of the Fatah Black Panthers, said the men would not be released unless Zakarnah was allowed to go free and intensive high-level contacts began between Israeli and Palestinian officials. Eventually the kidnappers agreed to hand the border policemen and their weapons to Palestinian police officers, who returned them unhurt. Their kidnappers are reported to have been arrested by the Palestinians, while the two policemen have been suspended pending a full investigation of the incident.

As to Zakarnah — the gunman in the cafe — following several hours of further contacts involving General al-Hajj Isma'il, head of the Palestinian Police in the West Bank, and Major General Gabi Ofir, commander of Israeli troops in Judaea and Samaria, it was agreed that Zakarnah would surrender himself to the Palestinians and be returned to Jericho.

Israel has registered a strong protest with the Palestinians over the entire affair, and Gen. Ofir says the kidnapping of the two border policemen was an extremely serious matter. Until clarifications are carried out, restrictions are being placed on travel by Israelis and local residents in the Janin area and by Palestinian security forces moving between Jericho and Palestinian autonomous areas. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 30 November includes a report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz adding: "The political echelon is certainly concerned about the Qabatiyah incident and regards it with gravity. The practical question, however, is whether Oslo B will continue to be implemented, and the answer is unequivocally affirmative. Technical or tactical lessons are likely to be drawn from this incident,

but sources in the Prime Minister's Bureau say that last night's incidents even indicate that the agreement is proving itself, and therefore the implementation of Oslo B will continue."]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 30 November adds: "The Likud faction says that the Qabatiyah incidents have lifted the mask off from the Oslo Accords. The Likud statement says that the PLO is covering up for terrorists and humiliating the IDF.

["The Tzomet faction says that the incident proves the terrorists are doing whatever they want to on the ground and disgracing Israel. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan demands immediately amending clauses in the Oslo Accords to prevent the recurrence of such incidents."]

Fatah 'Black Panthers' Suspected, Detained

TA3011102895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A senior source in the Palestinian Police says that five members of the Black Panthers group who kidnapped the two Israeli border policemen last night have been detained in Janin. The five will be tried by the Palestinian Authority. The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the kidnappers were headed by Jamal Abu-al-Rub from Qabatiyah, who is wanted by Israel. [passage omitted]

Article Details Shin Bet Structure

TA3011082695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Nov 95 p B2

[Article by Yosi Melman: "In Charge of A., Subordinate to H."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The attached chart, drawn up in 1977 by the CIA, is the only one of its kind published so far. The chart in fact describes the structure of Israel's entire intelligence community: Mosad, Military Intelligence, and Shin Bet.

In 1979, the U.S. Embassy in Tehran had a copy of the document. It fell into the hands of the Iranian students who seized the embassy after Khomeyni's rise to power and took its employees hostage.

In accordance with instructions, the embassy employees tried to shred the documents in the archives. But the Iranian students, in months of painstaking work, attached the pieces of shredded paper together and managed to reconstruct all the original documents. They forced the embassy employees to help them with the reconstruction and deciphering work, especially on coded cables. All the documents were translated and published in Persian and English, the original language,

in 13 volumes, which could be bought in the vicinity of the Tehran University campus, and from there reached the West.

The chart shows the Shin Bet head and his deputy next to him. K., the current Shin Bet head who took over nine months ago, has not yet appointed a deputy. It shows that the Shin Bet, whose main offices are located in a northern Tel Aviv suburb, is composed of eight divisions. These are: Administration, Legal Advice and Investigations, Technology, Operational Assistance, Planning and Coordination. The three operational divisions are: VIP Protection and Security, the Arab Affairs Division, the Antisubversion and Counterespionage Division (the Non-Arab Affairs Division).

The Shin Bet also has four regional divisions. From its Jerusalem office it covers the West Bank; from Haifa, the northern region; from Ashqelon, the Gaza Strip and southern Israel (an area that until the 1982 evacuation also included the Sinai); from Tel Aviv it covers the central region.

The divisions that have been in the eye of the storm in the wake of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination and on which the state commission of inquiry headed by Justice Me'ir Shamgar will focus its deliberations are VIP Protection and Security, and the Antisubversion and Counterespionage Division. The VIP Protection and Security Division was until recently headed by D., who hastened to resign rather than be suspended. This division includes the VIP protection branch which provides bodyguards for VIP's. B., the head of the branch, and two of his underlings — head of the operational unit, and the commander of the force on the night of the assassination — were suspended after the assassination. An internal inquiry committee appointed by the Shin Bet head found them guilty of negligence and failing to perform their jobs.

The internal investigation had no authority to look into the performance of the Shin Bet's intelligence set-up. That investigation falls within the jurisdiction of the state inquiry investigation, according to the government's letter of appointment. It will investigate all aspects of the intelligence available about the intentions of right-wing activists to harm the prime minister in the months preceding the murder.

That investigation will focus on the Antisubversion and Counterespionage Division, headed for the past two years by H. The division has several departments, including the Foreign Relations Department, responsible for Shin Bet relations with similar organizations in the world; a Counterespionage Department, which is tasked with uncovering spies in Israel and working against Israel, which according to foreign reports also deals with

surveillance of foreign embassies in Israel; a Research Department; and a Jewish Affairs Department, which is responsible for foiling subversive actions against the Israeli regime and democracy and gathering preventive intelligence.

The department is supposed to collect information on the intentions of individuals or organizations to carry out terrorist and subversive actions against the regime. This information is not gathered solely for filing in the Shin Bet archives, but is aimed at thwarting plans. The department has offices in Tel Aviv and a branch in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem office was headed in the 1980's by K., now the Shin Bet head. During his tenure, K. was involved in the investigation of the Jewish terrorist underground group whose members tried to assassinate West Bank Arab mayors, murdered three Arab students in Hebron, and conspired to blow up the Temple Mount mosques and buses in East Jerusalem.

After the underground was uncovered in 1984, K. was appointed head of the whole department. He ordered the stepped-up collection of information against right-wing organizations. Within this context, a special effort was made to recruit informers among extreme right-wing activists. One of them, who confirmed in a radio interview two days ago that he was recruited as a Shin Bet informer in 1987, was No'am Federman, the current spokesman of Kakh. Federman said that he has met K. several times.

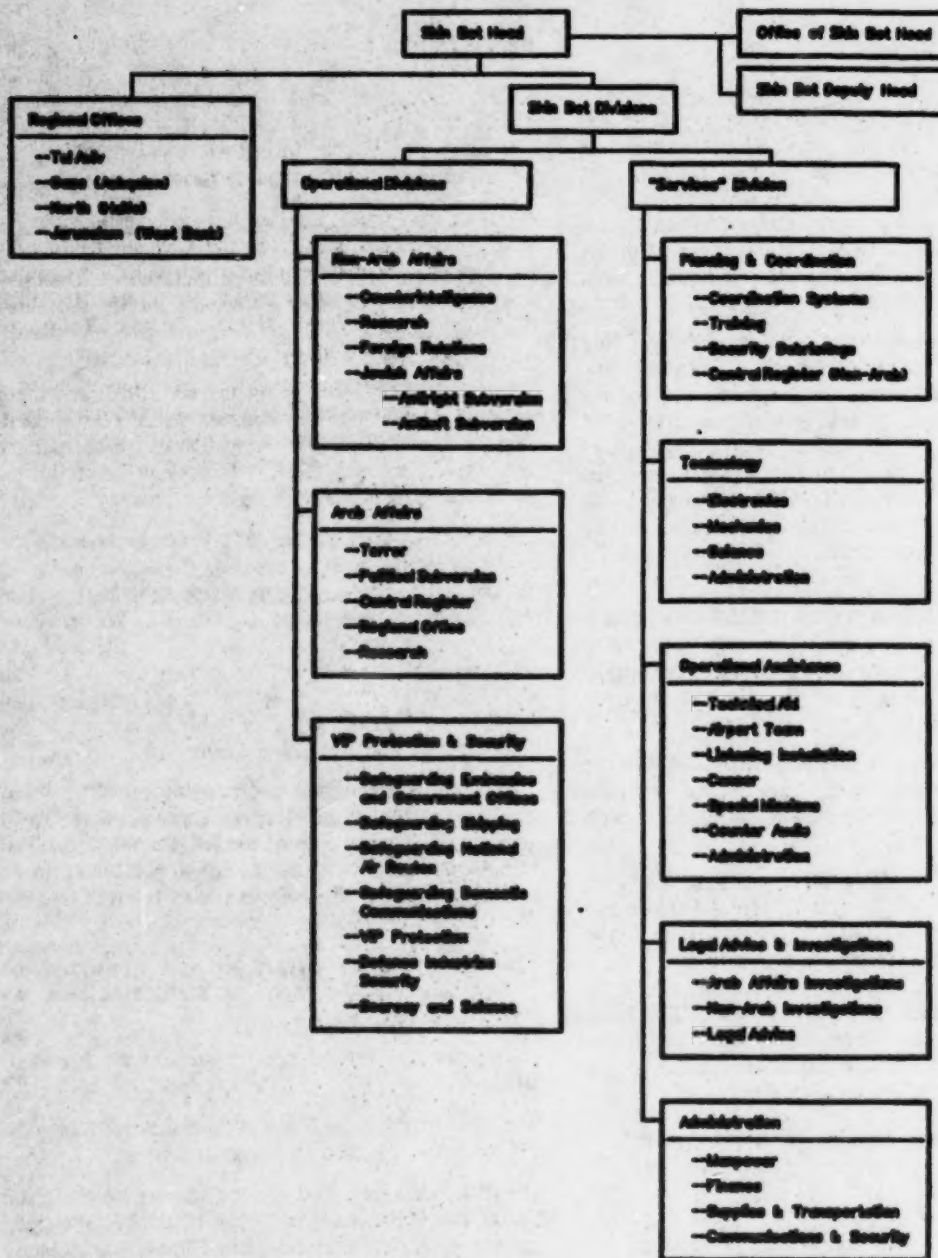
After Israel and the PLO signed the Declaration of Principles in September 1993, the Shin Bet division heads held meetings in which a new set-up was decided upon to meet the new challenges and dangers. There was concern that extreme right-wing activists would try to stage spectacular attacks against Arabs in the territories in order to impede the political process. But the extreme right wing started to discuss a change in tactics, and it shifted its anger from the Palestinians to the Israeli Government.

The Shin Bet learned about the change in tactics, and in the summer of 1994 decided on a reorganization. The Jewish Affairs Department was expanded and transformed into the "Jewish Affairs Section" and assigned more funds and new technologies and slots. It was divided into two departments: a relatively small one dealing with left-wing organizations, and a larger one dealing with preventive intelligence gathering on the extreme right wing.

Ya'akov Peri, the previous Shin Bet head, appointed his close and loyal friend A., who served as director of his bureau until 1992, as head of the section. That same year, A. was dismissed from his job and sent abroad to protect Israeli missions after becoming embroiled in a personal scandal (his girlfriend harassed Qol Yisra'el army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, and an inquiry committee uncovered that he had made a false report on a traffic accident in which he was involved). Despite his questionable behavior, Peri decided to recall him from overseas and appointed him head of the section. Senior Shin Bet officials claimed at the time that although the expansion of the Jewish Affairs Department into a section had been an operational necessity, it was also partially aimed at compensating A. for his devotion to his boss.

A., who will testify this week before the state commission of inquiry, will be called upon to answer tough questions on intelligence issues: What information did the section have on intentions to harm the prime minister? How were the section's informers used? What did he and his people do with the information, if anything at all? Did they relay it to the relevant divisions, especially the VIP protection unit? Why did the section do nothing with the information it received from the police on the intentions of "a short and curly-haired Yemenite guy" to harm the prime minister? Similar questions will also be posed to H., A.'s boss.

Structure of the Shin Bet



Businessman Admits Supplying Arms to Iran
TA3011115995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Nov 95 p A1

[Report by Ronen Bergman]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a special interview with HA'ARETZ, Israeli businessman Nahum Manbar has divulged that from 1988-1992 he sold large quantities of weapons and military equipment to Iran via companies he owns in Poland. Manbar claims that the weapons, including modern Soviet tanks and sophisticated fire control systems, were sold with the knowledge of the Israeli Defense Ministry, adding that the ministry even approved the sale of Israeli military equipment to Iran.

In a U.S. State Department document dated 16 July 1994, Thomas McNamara, assistant secretary of state, said that Manbar and two of his companies violated the U.S. embargo on Iran by selling it chemical weapons components which can be used to manufacture mustard and nerve gases. In the document, McNamara stated that Manbar and his companies will be boycotted by all U.S. Administration bodies, and goods manufactured by these companies will be banned in the United States. To date, this boycott has not been lifted.

In April 1995, THE NEW YORK TIMES claimed that Manbar was "linked to secret shipments going from China to Iran via Poland over the last three years, including components for the manufacture of toxic gases."

Defense Ministry officials told HA'ARETZ that in the wake of the suspicions linking Manbar with Iran, the ministry has ordered the termination of all links with him.

Manbar owns the Hapo'el Yerushalayim basketball club and also has business links with the Hapo'el Holon and Elitzur Holon (women's) basketball clubs. Over a period of 10 years his transactions have grown to \$60 million annually. He has recently invested approximately \$8 million in Israel and plans to invest \$40 million more over the next three years. Manbar donates funds to the Israeli Children's Society, Wolfson Hospital, Wingate Institute, UNESCO, and the Labor Party.

Saddam Said Behind Riyadh Car Bomb Attack
TA3011110695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 23 Nov 95 p 6

[Commentary by Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg: "Sly Snake of Baghdad"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Signs are Saddam Husayn is making an all-out effort to topple the royal family of Saudi Arabia. If he succeeds he could create an

economic crisis by controlling oil supplies to the West, sending major shock waves echoing throughout the Middle East.

But the reaction of a team of 17 or 18 FBI investigators who flew into the Saudi capital of Riyadh less than 24 hours after a highly sophisticated car bomb devastated the Saudi National Guard facility last week pointed in a different direction. The investigators saw the explosion as part of Iran's international terrorist offensive.

Over the past few years Iran has been responsible for striking at civilian targets in the US, South America and Europe. Under the control of Ali Fallahian, Iranian minister for special affairs, Iran also directs Hizbullah in Lebanon, as well as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

Four Americans were among the six killed, and there were at least a dozen Americans among the 60 wounded. The facility is the HQ of King Fahd's major military and security force. Its task is to prevent revolutionary movements from overthrowing the monarchy.

Earlier this week, a suicide bomber devastated the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, killing 15 people and wounding 59. A week ago, an Egyptian diplomat was assassinated in Geneva. Western and Israeli intelligence sources believed that these attacks were carried out on behalf of Iran by the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group created by the blind Egyptian cleric Omar 'Abd al-Rahman, who masterminded the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

The Saudi bomb blast is a different story. The Saudi intelligence chief General Turki, a prince of the royal house, told American Ambassador Raymond Mabus: "The explosive device was far too sophisticated to be assembled locally. We believe it was brought into the country."

The car bomb used in Riyadh was such a powerful and skillfully assembled device that it shattered windows over a kilometer away.

The prince flew immediately to see Egypt's President Mubarak.

Both men fear that the Moslem fundamentalist threat to their regimes is greater than ever before.

The FBI specialists, who investigated the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bomb blasts, are still deep in their enquiries. President Bill Clinton has publicly declared that he wants to be certain who was behind the attack in Riyadh.

The view that Saddam Husayn masterminded the attack is held by General Husayn Kamal's entourage, now in

hiding in Jordan. A source close to Kamal told US experts still debriefing him that Saddam is "as cunning as a serpent.

"He's determined to beat the US and 'topple the White House into the dust,' Kamal said. "That's one of his favorite expressions. You can judge how sly he is: He wants everybody to think it's the Iranians behind the attack. He is using them as a smoke screen, hoping to fool the world. He will go on trying to seek revenge against his enemies. Top of his list are Saudi Arabia and the US."

We are informed by intelligence sources that Saddam appears to have activated his 'sleeper' terrorist cells in Saudi Arabia. "He is thirsting for action," said Kamal. "It was a major reason why we skipped the country. He's being helped by the fact that there is growing resentment among the ordinary people of Saudi Arabia."

Visitors to Riyadh report deep anger at the way the country's vast wealth is being swallowed up by the royal family. At last count, the family had nearly 5,000 members, and it's multiplying fast.

Welfare rights for ordinary citizens are being slashed as the king has had to borrow money from Western banks. Meanwhile, the royal princes are still the major players in the fashionable casinos of London, Las Vegas and elsewhere in the West. "I know better than anyone else how Saddam has developed technically highly advanced methods of terrorism," Kamal told his interrogators.

Up to the present, Saddam has rarely used his well-trained terrorist units, equipped with the most modern

weapons of destruction. But Kamal went on: "I led the team buying the materiel and weapons from Western countries. They were ready to sell anything — bacterial, biological and chemical — for the right price. With the help of German and Russian scientists, we developed a unique explosive that can be integrated into the structure of suitcases, undetectable by airport screening devices."

Saddam wants to dominate most major sources of oil in the Middle East. That is why he attacked Iran in the 1980s. When that failed, he set his sights on Saudi Arabia. He invaded Kuwait not only to seize its oil wells, but to use Kuwait as a springboard for the conquest of Saudi Arabia.

Following the Gulf war, the Bush administration made the mistake of not eliminating Saddam, something the Iraqi leader deemed "decadent Western weakness."

Thirsting for revenge for his defeat, he hired local and Palestinian terrorists to slay George Bush during the ex-president's visit to Kuwait in March 1993. It was only by a stroke of luck that the attempt failed.

"Totally unpredictable," was how a security expert described Saddam.

"It's power, power, and more power which makes Saddam tick," said a member of the Kamal entourage. "He really does believe he can dominate the whole world by controlling the bulk of Middle Eastern oil. We were all certain that he is ready to plunge Iraq into another war."

Al-Kabariti To Make 'First' Gaza Visit in Dec
TA2911145495 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH
in Arabic 28 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — Jordanian Foreign Ministry sources have said that Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will visit the Gaza Strip on 5 December. Al-Kabariti's visit will be the first of its kind by a high-ranking Jordanian official to the Palestinian self-rule areas.

The sources said that during this visit the Jordanian foreign minister will meet with President Yasir 'Arafat and be briefed on the work of Jordan's diplomatic representation office.

Al-Kabariti will confer with Palestinian officials about the future of Palestinian-Jordanian relations and issues involving displaced persons.

IAF Urges Mubarak To Release MB Prisoners
JN2811164895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Nov 95 p 28

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — The Islamic Action Front [IAF] deputies have urged Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to release all Muslim Brotherhood [MB] prisoners in Egyptian jails and to cancel the sentences passed against 54 of them by the Military Court. This is especially since these sentences were issued by a court that has no jurisdiction over public opinion issues.

In a statement issued yesterday, the IAF deputies call on the Egyptian president to allow those Muslim Brotherhood prisoners to exercise their right in the elections scheduled to be held in Egypt at the end of this month. The statement also calls on the Egyptian president to issue orders to the Muslim Brotherhood to practice political work in the service of the homeland and nation in accordance with the law.

In their statement, the IAF deputies call for an end to martial law and illegal practices and for a serious dialogue to achieve social peace in the homeland as a prelude and condition for achieving progress and prosperity.

Tripoli TV: Amman To Expel 70,000 Workers
NC3011091995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Government is implementing a plan to expel tens of thousands of foreign workers. Reports cite a statement by the Jordanian labor minister saying that 70,000 out of 250,000 foreign workers were deported from Jordan in October.

Contenders for House Speaker, Deputy Summed Up
JN3011083895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
30 Nov 95 p 1

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The battle for speakership of the Lower House of Parliament seems to have settled largely in favour of incumbent Sa'd Hayil al-Surur against Islamist 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah ahead of the opening of the third session of Parliament on Saturday. But a fierce competition is looming for the post of deputy speakership.

Until Wednesday, only Mr. al-Surur and Dr al-'Akayilah were known to have been nominated for the speakership post and the outcome, for many observers, seems to have been settled in favour of Mr. al-Surur, since Islamists and opposition deputies at the 80-member house would not muster more than 25 votes.

Although they know it might be a losing battle for Dr. al-'Akayilah, the Islamic Action Front insists on nominating him. According to sources, however, the front's efforts are mainly directed at lobbying for the vice-presidency set for which it stands a better chance than the speakership, they said.

Three strong candidates are vying for the vice-presidency. Islamist 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Akur, centrist 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu and leftist Mustafa Shunaykat are the three. There is no inclination, it seems, among any of the three, to withdraw from the race which makes it the more difficult to determine to which way scales would tip.

"It is very hard to tell if our candidate will make it or not," said Muhammad 'Uwaydah of the IAF. "But we are determined to go all the way even if we are not sure of his victory."

Another Islamist deputy, Sulayman Sa'd, said he believed that all blocs in Parliament are lobbying against the IAF. He told the JORDAN TIMES that there were attempts by some deputies to isolate the Islamists within the House's permanent bureau.

"We accept dialogue. We even said we will withdraw from the race for the speakership if we win the vice-presidency by acclamation," said Mr. Sa'd. "But it seems everyone is against the front and is working against it."

But the National Action Front (IAF) bloc, led by AL-'AHD Secretary General 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, said competition was a testimony of democracy.

"This is not a place for begging. We are here to practice democracy," said Mr. al-Majali. "We insist on nominating Mr. Jammu and we will not go back on it."

"We have a strong and committed coalition of 38 voices," he said. "He will not withdraw. Opposition has the right to a seat but it is democracy and whoever wins wins."

But a deputy who preferred not to be named cast doubts on a unified centrist stand. He said he believed there was a tendency within the House and the government towards the election of an opposition deputy for vice-presidency.

"Negotiations are still going on, but the trend is in favour of the presence of a deputy from the opposition to balance things," the deputy said. "It is unlikely that the four centrist blocs will vote for Mr. Jammu."

Leftist sources argue that Mr. Shunaykat has a strong chance since several independents, nationalists and leftists would prefer to see an opposition figure, who is not an Islamist, in the House's permanent bureau.

Mr. Shunaykat himself does not see a reason for withdrawal and said he believes he had good chances.

"Every deputy has the right to take part in the elections. There is nothing impossible," he said. "But I'm open for dialogue."

In last year's elections, Mr. Shunaykat withdrew from the vice-presidency race in favour of candidate al-'Akur, who did not win. This year, one deputy says, Islamists should be voting for him instead of nominating a candidate.

It is yet not clear if any of the three candidates will withdraw, since lobbying will go on until Saturday morning, one deputy said.

His Majesty King Husayn will open the session on Saturday with a speech from the Throne outlining the government's policies.

Following the speech, the Senate will convene under the chairmanship of Ahmad al-Lawzi and will elect a committee to prepare the reply to the speech. It will also elect members of the Senate's permanent bureau, two assistants and its different committees.

The House will then hold its first session under the chairmanship of the oldest serving member. Elections for the speakership as well as two vice-presidents and two assistants will take place. The House will also elect various committees.

Al-Hariri: No Signing of Agreements Without Syria
NC2911125895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
 1130 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has announced that the drafting of an election law will begin in February 1996 and will take three months to complete. He remarked that the government is seeking to draft a law that will be acceptable to all parties. He said that the next elections will be held between 15 September and 15 October 1996.

Commenting on the escalating security incidents in the south, Prime Minister al-Hariri pointed out that the escalation began two days after Yitzhak Rabin's death.

He declared that the Lebanese Government rejects the remarks made by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. He affirmed that Lebanon hopes for peace and security but this hinges on Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory and Israel's compliance with UN resolutions.

Al-Hariri said that he hopes the Israelis are serious about withdrawing from the occupied territories.

He announced: Peace is our strategic option but we will not sign any peace agreement except together with Syria.

Prime Minister al-Hariri made these remarks during his meeting with a delegation from the Editors' Association Council who visited him today.

Palestinian Factions Ordered To Hand Over Weapons

TA2911162695 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
 28 Nov 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Lebanon has called on Palestinian factions operating on its territory to hand over their weapons or transfer them outside the country. It stressed that this demand was the last warning, because the security of Palestinian refugee camps and figures is Lebanon's responsibility. Lebanese sources said that this decision is connected to expected developments on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track.

Palestinian sources in Beirut emphasized that they had received hints several months ago, and subsequently a few days ago from Damascus, on the need to disarm Palestinian factions operating in the Lebanese arena and to adopt measures against the offices of these factions in Beirut and Damascus. The sources refused to discuss the nature of those measures.

The sources disclosed that intensive contacts and meetings have been held between the leaders of these factions to discuss the reasons for and consequences of those measures amid increasing talk in Damascus about

expected breakthroughs with Israel. According to the sources, those measures will be preceded by certain goodwill gestures on the part of Syria toward Israel.

The sources stressed that the demand to disarm has not been confined to Palestinian factions and that Lebanese factions, particularly Hizballah, have been called upon to defuse the situation in south Lebanon and move their fighters from this area to regions far from the confrontation lines with Israel.

Israeli Jets Raid Western al-Biq'a' Area

NC2911135995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed
 in Arabic 1344 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following report from the news desk: Zionist warplanes carried out air strikes on the ridges overlooking the township of 'Ayn al-Tinah in Western al-Biq'a' at 1530 today. The Israeli aircraft fired air-to-surface missiles at the targets.

Israelis Fire Phosphorous Shells in South

NC301115095 Paris AFP in English
 0816 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Nov 30 (AFP) — Israeli troops fired outlawed phosphorous shells in south Lebanon on Thursday [30 November] triggering several fires in retaliation for Hizballah attacks on their positions, security sources said.

The Hizballah attacks targeted an Israeli position at Bra'shit and an outpost of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Haddathah, in the central sector of the Israeli-occupied "security zone".

The Iranian-backed guerrillas used mortars, rocket propelled grenades and machine guns.

Israeli and SLA gunners retaliated by unleashing an artillery barrage of around 80 shells, including phosphorous bombs, against several villages facing the zone and some fell near a position of Irish peacekeepers serving with UN forces.

No one was hurt, but fires started by the internationally-outlawed shells spread through olive groves, the sources said.

Shells also hit the village of 'Ayta al-Sha'b causing damage to several houses but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

An Israeli helicopter gunship circled the region firing on suspected guerrilla positions while warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over south Lebanon for the third day running, they added.

"This is not a place for begging. We are here to practice democracy," said Mr. al-Majali. "We insist on nominating Mr. Jammo and we will not go back on it."

"We have a strong and committed coalition of 38 voices," he said. "He will not withdraw. Opposition has the right to a seat but it is democracy and whoever wins wins."

But a deputy who preferred not to be named cast doubts on a unified centrist stand. He said he believed there was a tendency within the House and the government towards the election of an opposition deputy for vice-presidency.

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An Israeli helicopter gunship circled the region firing on suspected guerrilla positions while warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over south Lebanon for the third day running, they added.

Hizballah's Radio Nur claimed responsibility for the new flare up and said snipers shot and killed an Israeli soldier at Bra'shit. But SLA sources in Marj 'Uyun, headquarters of the Israeli army, said there were no casualties.

The SLA also denied reports of a bomb attack on one of its patrols.

Tension has been running high in south Lebanon since Tuesday when Hizballah rocketed northern Israel, wounding eight people and drawing heavy retaliatory air attacks and artillery shelling on south Lebanon.

On Wednesday the State Department in Washington reported that Syria had intervened to stop the rocket attacks after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke to leaders in both Syria and the Jewish state.

"We believe Syria has some influence on Hizballah," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns. Syria has 35,000 troops in Lebanon where it is the key power broker.

Fadlallah on 'Unclear' Israeli Movements in South
NC3011115795 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed*
in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Israel's movement in the south is unclear. He added that the current military escalation is a message to Syria and Lebanon hoping to create a new situation in the region.

Speaking at a Koran interpretation session, his eminence said the Islamic resistance has forced the occupation force into an enormous crisis. The occupation force cannot withdraw because it would be admitting defeat if it pulls out unilaterally without gaining anything. He added, the occupation force cannot carry out a major operation because it would suffer huge losses and lose numerous political gains because any major Israeli invasion of the south or Western al-Biq'a will destroy the settlement process. He noted that Israel and the United States see no interest in such a move.

Therefore, he said, Israel intimidates the southerners and complicates their relationship with the resistance and destroys people's homes to make them believe that the resistance is responsible for such acts. It shells civilian areas on the pretext that the resistance uses these areas and that the inhabitants should not allow the resistance forces to stay in their villages in order to make the inhabitants supporters of the Israeli occupation.

Haji Husayn Khalil, political assistant of the Hizballah secretary general, said the U.S. stand on Israeli attacks on Lebanon shows that the United States is Israel's full

partner in the war on the region and in all the Zionist aggressions and massacres against our people.

In a radio statement, Hajj Khalil added: The United States has accustomed us to it fully supporting and adopting terrorism which is being practiced by the Zionist government and gangs against the region. Various U.S. Administrations leave no international arena or forum without covering all Zionist stands and aggressions in an attempt to perpetuate the Israeli occupation.

Hajj Khalil continued: What was noticeable is that the U.S. Administration for the first time flagrantly showed its face. It violated the simplest diplomatic norms that turned the United States to a municipality and turned the U.S. president to a mayor.

He went on: For the first time, Clinton stooped to the level of contacting the mayor of Qiryat Shemona to assure him on the settlers' conditions. This is at a time when neither he nor any official in his administration bothered to contact any Lebanese prominent personalities or state officials, beginning with the president of the republic down to the lowest employee at the Foreign Ministry.

'Resistance,' Israeli Activities Detailed

NC3011093895 *Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed*
in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Nov 95

[Report by Samir 'Alamah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance continues to deliver painful blows to the Zionist enemy. It targeted several enemy positions overnight and this morning, following an operation in which it recorded a new military infiltration of Zionist security. The operation recalls the Resistance attack in Marj 'Uyun on a motorcade transporting the enemy chief of staff, Amnon Shahaq, and the commander of the northern area, 'Amiram Nadim [as transliterated].

These operations followed reprisals by the Islamic Resistance, firing rockets at Zionist settlements after the enemy bombarded areas in the south and Western al-Biq'a.

At 2300 yesterday, the Resistance detonated an explosive charge under a Zionist infantry patrol in the Hula suburbs, inflicting confirmed casualties on patrol members. The Resistance said the martyrs Yahya Qasim and Muhammad Nassar group carried out the operation.

At the same time the Islamic Resistance, using the appropriate weapons, attacked Zionist units monitored by the mujahidin in the suburbs of the town of Shaqra. The Resistance dealt with the units, forcing them to retreat.

At 0630 today, the Islamic Resistance sniper unit fired on personnel manning the Bra'shit post, causing casualties. Five minutes later, the Islamic Resistance fire support unit targeted the Haddathah post using the appropriate weapons and scored direct hits.

Retaliating for the crime of assassinating martyr al-Haj Sa'id Harb, the Islamic Resistance yesterday afternoon detonated an explosive charge under a motorcade transporting enemy intelligence officers on the al-Qulay'ah-Marj 'Uyun road, causing confirmed casualties among motorcade members. The attack took place 400 meters from the command headquarters of the enemy and his Agents in Marj 'Uyun. [passage omitted]

Yesterday afternoon's Zionist attacks on the liberated areas abated last night but resumed this morning. Soon after 0500 the army's derelict barracks came under 81-mm artillery fire from the al-Dabshah post. This was followed by 155-mm artillery shelling against al-Jabal al-Rafi' from al-Zaffatah. At 0600, the outskirts of Bra'shit, Tibnin, 'Ayta, Haddathah, and Jabal al-Za'tar came under 155-mm artillery fire originating from the occupation positions in Muhaydib and [word indistinct] Mays.

The Iqlim al-Tuffah hills yesterday afternoon were subjected to concentrated shelling, which lasted until evening. It was preceded by shelling against the al-Nabatiyah area and the al-Litani River basin in the morning.

Enemy aircraft carried out two raids on the 'Ayn al-Tinah hills in Western al-Biq'a' yesterday afternoon. Sources said four enemy warplanes conducted two raids, firing eight rockets on the hills between 'Ayn al-Tinah and Mashgharah in Western al-Biq'a'. An enemy helicopter fired a rocket at the Jabbur area but it did not explode. At dawn yesterday, military aircraft fired two surface-to-air missiles at Wadi al-Qaysiyah. An Islamic Resistance source denied media reports that a Resistance man was martyred in Zionist military aircraft raids on the Western al-Biq'a' hills. The source said the report was inaccurate.

***Sami al-Khatib on Elections, Single Constituency**
96AA0020A Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English
4 Sep 95 pp 16-17

[Interview with former Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib by Halah Husayni; place and date not given: "Lebanon As a Single Electoral Constituency" — first four paragraphs are MONDAY MORNING introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Interior Minister Sami al-Khalib, who represents the West al-Biq'a' Sunni constituency in Parliament, is well-informed on the

resources of the Interior Ministry which supervises the general elections. He was interior minister in 1992, when the last general elections were held. He said in an interview he thought a new electoral code had to be enacted in accordance with the provisions of the National Accord Document, the al-Ta'if Agreement. This means dividing Lebanon into five constituencies congruent with the original provinces, but he advocates making Lebanon a unified constituency in the long run.

In the interview, al-Khatib commended the work of Vice-Premier Michel al-Murr, who is also the current interior minister. He told us that the electoral cards prepared by the ministry during his term did not suffer from any discrepancies, adding that he hoped al-Murr would be able to use these cards in the 1996 general elections.

Concerning this year's presidential election, he said he had no favorite candidate, and that an extension of the term of President Ilyas al-Hirawi had "advantages and disadvantages."

Here is a translation of the interview:

[Husayni] As interior minister in 1992, you supervised the general elections of that year. What do you have to say about the electoral cards and lists of voters?

[Al-Khatib] The 1992 elections were difficult to prepare for because most records had been either lost or destroyed during the war. The ministry had recourse to the microfilms of the Personal Status Department and bought new apparatus to reproduce them on paper. Out of the microfilms, we were able to reproduce 96 percent of the voter lists, but some names of deceased persons were present because not all of those who died during the war were properly reported to the Personal Status Department.

Critics of the elections used this fact to resume the electoral operation. But the supervisors of the elections and the representatives of the candidates did not allow anyone claiming to be someone born in the last century to vote. So no fraud was allowed.

Concerning the electoral cards, the Electoral Code provides for their use in general elections, but the Council of Ministers decided in 1992 to postpone using them for these elections until Parliament passed a law regulating how they were to be used. The Council of Ministers had decided to spend six billion Lebanese pounds on printing new electoral cards and three billion on the electoral procedures. We printed 2.5 million cards on special cardboard. Each card carried my signature which could only be detected under infra-red light. Thus, it was impossible to forge fraudulent cards.

The ministry then decided to distribute those cards to the voters according to a very accurate method. We promised to use 1,200 employees to finish distributing the cards within 50 days.

Some MPs and ministers thought that 50 days were too long and that rich candidates could hire people to help distribute the cards among their supporters, while other candidates could not do so.

[Husayni] Some political circles call for passing a law to regulate elections. What is your view?

[Al-Khatib] The al-Ta'if Agreement provides that the first Parliament elected in accordance with the agreement's constitutional amendments should pass a new electoral law based on new administrative divisions and on the principle of administrative decentralism. Thus, this parliament must amend the Electoral Code to make each of the original five provinces a constituency, as the al-Ta'if Agreement provides for.

[Husayni] What do you say about the view which calls for making the whole country a single, unified constituency?

[Al-Khatib] Lebanon should, in the long run, be made a single constituency. But this requires democratic political and party life in the country. Until Lebanon reaches this level of democracy, let us hold the elections in the basis of the original five provinces. This requires re-annexing Nabatiyeh Province with South Lebanon Province.

[Husayni] Minister al-Murr said the electoral cards the ministry printed under the your term were defective. What do you say?

[Al-Khatib] I consider these cards excellent. The voter does not have to sign on his or her card as long as he signs next to his name in the voters' lists, but if Minister al-Murr can come out with better cards, he is most welcome to do so.

[Husayni] How many times can an electoral card be used?

[Al-Khatib] Up to six times. But the problem Minister al-Murr has indicated is that the card cannot be used anywhere. The new electoral law should allow a citizen, say, from Zahlah but living in Tripoli to vote where he lives using his electoral card. This problem would be solved if the elections were computerized. Computerization would require new cards and maybe new legislation.

[Husayni] Is a new law on the way?

[Al-Khatib] The presidential election is now closer than the general elections. We have no time for a proper

consideration of the Electoral Code. After President al-Hirawi's term is extended or a new president is elected, we can discuss the issue.

[Husayni] MP Auguste Bakhus has presented a bill amending the code.

[Al-Khatib] Colleague Bakhus presented a bill on administrative division. There are many bills on this issue. When I was still interior minister, I asked all those concerned to give me suggestions on administrative divisions. I received 13 bills, but the Council of Ministers did not have time to come out with a compromise bill because it was busy with the elections.

[Husayni] The president says he wants neither a new term nor an extended one. What do you think?

[Al-Khatib] It is normal for the president to say that just before his mandate expires, but if Parliament votes to extend his term, I don't think he would refuse it. Anyway, every measure has its advantages and disadvantages and has its supporters and opponents. Soon matters will clarify. If advocates of extending the presidential term are more than the opponents, let it be, and if not, a new president will be elected. The picture will clarify after September 15.

[Husayni] Lebanon lived through a similar situation in 1949, when the Constitution was amended to give then-President Bisharah al-Khuri a second term. But the experiment failed, and the president was forced by a popular — though peaceable — uprising to resign in the middle of his second term. Would a second experiment succeed in 1995?

[Al-Khatib] The opponents of the measure make the point you've just made, while its advocates say it has many advantages.

[Husayni] What are the advantages?

[Al-Khatib] Viewpoints differ and history is the final judge. I haven't yet made up my mind. I will decide according to the requirements of Lebanon's national interest and choose the one I think is the right person.

[Husayni] As the socioeconomic situation is deteriorating, some say Parliament should have taken a stronger stand than just issuing a recommendation to the government. What do you say?

[Al-Khatib] No one should ask Parliament to do what it cannot and should not do. The executive authority is responsible for implementing decisions on the ground. Parliament's role is to supervise the activities of the executive authority. There was a crisis between the government and the General Labor Confederation (GLC).

The legislature, following discussion, issued the recommendation and asked the government to abide by it. Eventually Parliament can hold the government to account if it does not comply with the recommendation.

[Husayni] How can Lebanon get out of this socioeconomic crisis?

[Al-Khatib] Lebanon can overcome this crisis with constructive and honest dialogue between all sides, whether they are officials, workers or employers. That way the national interest and the interest of the individual citizen is preserved. The national interest should come before personal interests, and dialogue is the only way to preserve Lebanon from future challenges. Conflicts in the streets between the government and the GLC are not acceptable, and calls for ousting the government just to change it is dangerous for the country.

[Husayni] But there is obvious opposition to the government...

[Al-Khatib] Opposition is needed to check on the work of the government and ascertain and publicize its mistakes. The absence of an opposition would mean we were a dictatorship. Thus if an opposition did not exist, we would have to create one. Opposition is essential to tune the rhythm of governmental work.

[Husayni] We hear that the coming general elections may not be boycotted by some Lebanese, as the 1992 elections were, if they feel that they can trust the electoral procedure. What do you say?

[Al-Khatib] I repeat: boycotting the elections was an unsuccessful political play. If all the Lebanese had voted, there would have been a different result, and parliamentary life would have been more lively than today with the presence of the opposition leaders in the House. Parliamentary discussions would be more active than they are now.

[Husayni] We hear that General Michel 'Awn wants to return to Lebanon, where he still has a large following.

[Al-Khatib] General 'Awn knows when the law allows him to return. This matter is behind us and should not be reopened. The law requires 'Awn to stay outside Lebanon for five years. Once the five years are over, he is welcome to return. If we want to prevent him from returning, we have to pass a new law in Parliament. He asks for protection here. I say, this issue concerns the executive authority, not Parliament.

[Husayni] Concerning the Mideast peace process, is peace near, do you think?

[Al-Khatib] I think the peace process has become a bit complicated. Israel is complicating the process by imposing difficult conditions. It wants the resolution

made to its measures so it can conclude peace with the Arabs while still keeping the occupied territories, and this is not acceptable.

Also, Israel wants Syria to accept unbalanced security measures. This is unacceptable in Syria and cannot be accepted in Lebanon. We have certain constants that we cannot give up. We will never give up our land or accept a settlement, except on the basis of land for peace. Nor will we accept unbalanced security measures.

That's why I think the situation may remain on hold. Israel is obstructing peace and knows that war is impossible.

[Husayni] Will this situation affect the presidential election here?

[Al-Khatib] Of course it will. The election is subject to many influences, including regional influences.

*** Mirhij: Relationship With Syria Built on 'Rock'**
96AA0020B Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English
4 Sep 95 pp 18-19

[Interview with former Minister Bisharah Mirhij by Joseph Malkan; place and date not given — first five paragraphs are MONDAY MORNING introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Minister Bisharah Mirhij believes that a new approach is needed in the country's political life, one which avoids the "deceit" he perceives to be characteristic of it.

In an interview, Mirhij, who represents a Beirut constituency in Parliament, said: "A new approach is required, one based on honesty with oneself and with the public, on sacrifice for the sake of building the nation, and on ending the attempts to exploit the State and use public resources to serve private ends." He added: "We must resist the temptation to despair of reforming Lebanese institutions, even though we sometimes have the impression that political activity is about to be stifled."

Mirhij has little time for all the talk about whether the presidential term should be renewed or extended. "I think all the talk... is unimportant, because whoever is elected, be he a newly-elected president or one whose term has been renewed, will have to face severe tests of his leadership qualities. Should he be unable to measure up to the challenge, he might lead the nation to disaster."

One thing the next president must have, in Mirhij's view, is an awareness of the importance of Lebanon's special relationship with Syria. Syria, he told us, "stands as a rock of stability for Lebanon as we face the challenges being posed to us. That's why there should be

coordination in any action undertaken by the governments of Lebanon and Syria. In this, the president of the republic occupies a crucial place."

Here is a translation of the interview:

[Malkan] How do you perceive the political atmosphere at the end of the president's term of office?

[Bisharah] The end of the president's term remains something under discussion, but a clear vision hasn't appeared yet. That's unfortunate for political life in Lebanon.

[Malkan] When will matters appear more clearly?

[Bisharah] The moment the president's term of office ends.

[Malkan] Can you elaborate?

[Bisharah] The reason behind this is the defectiveness of Lebanese political activity. It's also caused by the fact that none of the candidates has presented himself with a political program, nor have they started their election campaigns, since they believe that the decision as to who the president will be will be taken by foreign powers, however, if one of the candidates was able to dominate the solution, to obtain a wide mass support, and to earn the trust of members of Parliament, any foreign power would have to conform with this overwhelming current of opinion.

[Malkan] Since 1943, the year of Lebanese independence, not one candidate has presented himself with a clearly conceived program. What is the reason, in your view?

[Bisharah] It's because everyone thinks the decision is that of other countries, whereas the real decision is ours.

[Malkan] Ours? How?

[Bisharah] It's a very complicated, dynamic operation. I say that if the candidate was able to obtain real support, and if he had the requisite qualities, any foreign power would have to acquiesce in this situation. It is wrong to believe that the decision need be a foreign one. That would be a shirking of political responsibility on the part of the Lebanese, a degradation of political life.

Everything is possible. Such an outcome is certainly possible in the present circumstances.

[Malkan] Are you in favor of modifying Article 49 of the Constitution to enable the president either to be elected for a full second term or to have his present term extended for a certain period?

[Bisharah] I favor respecting the Constitution and abiding by its rules.

[Malkan] Are you in favor of an extension of the president's mandate, giving a new, full mandate, prolongation, a reelection, or of electing another person?

[Bisharah] I favor honesty in political matters. We are fed up with lies. A country cannot be governed if its political life is based on deceit.

[Malkan] What's to be done?

[Bisharah] A new approach is required, an approach based on honesty with oneself and with the public, on sacrifice for the sake of building the nation, and on ending attempts to exploit the government and use public resources to serve personal objectives. We must resist the temptation to despair of reforming Lebanese institutions, even though we sometimes have the impression that political activity is about to be stifled.

[Malkan] People are talking in terms of an extension of the presidential term. What is your opinion?

[Bisharah] I think all the talk about an extension and a re-election is unimportant, because whoever is elected, be he a newly-elected president or one whose term has been renewed, will have to face severe tests of his leadership qualities. Should he be unable to measure up to the challenges, he might lead the nation to a disaster.

[Malkan] What is required, in your view?

[Bisharah] A new spirit, new approaches, a new attitude of mind which gives priority to the service of the nation, are required. The person himself is not as important as the approach he will have to take.

[Malkan] Not the person as an individual but the approach he will take...

[Bisharah] Exactly. The approach is very important, on condition that it is reconciling, saving, constructive, and is not founded on deceit and robbery.

[Malkan] Do you favor one particular candidate?

[Bisharah] I don't care who the candidate is. What counts is where the country is heading.

[Malkan] When will the battle start?

[Bisharah] Unfortunately, it hasn't started yet. If only it would start so that we can see who the true leaders are.

[Malkan] In other words...

[Bisharah] I mean that we would get to know what ideas the candidates have, how they would like to see this country develop over the next six years, and we could ensure that the presidential campaign doesn't remain behind the scenes.

[Malkan] What influence are the surrounding countries exerting on the domestic Lebanese situation as the president's term draws to its end?

[Bisharah] Lebanon belongs to its surroundings. It cannot ignore the region, with which it continuously interacts. For us, the region is, first of all, defined by its fateful relationship with Syria, which stands as a rock of stability for Lebanon as we face the challenges being posed to us. That's why there should be coordination in any action undertaken by the governments of Lebanon and Syria. In this, the president of the republic occupies a crucial place.

The new president should be deeply familiar with the concept, as well as the tenor, of the relationship between Lebanon and Syria and should abide by it. He should understand this relationship and its political, economic and other dimensions so that there will be harmony in their common endeavors.

[Malkan] In speaking of the influences of the surrounding region of the Lebanese scene, are you referring to the Arab-Israeli peace process?

[Bisharah] In the modern world, the interests of countries differ. There are various interests between all countries, and it is no coincidence that the Lebanese should aspire to play an important role in the political activity of the United States itself.

[Malkan] How do you mean?

[Bisharah] By influencing the Lebanese communities in the United States and by activating the Lebanese presence in the diaspora, generally.

The essential element in this matter is to have an internal unity which cancels out all domestic discords. This is essential if the work of national reconstruction is to be carried forward, and if its regional and international interests are to be served.

[Malkan] Does the success of national reconciliation depend on the man who is eventually elected?

[Bisharah] One would prefer a reconciliation between the interests of the Lebanese, the Syrians, and of all the other powers that wish Lebanon well.

[Malkan] Will there be such a Lebanese-Syrian-American reconciliation of this kind?

[Bisharah] If there is a reconciliation, it would be in Lebanon's interests. We base our evaluation of this matter on national factors which are essential in the choice of the Lebanese president. Our relationship with Syria is built on rock. As far as any other country is concerned, we would welcome any international support.

[Malkan] Who, in your view, will be the principal elector of the new president?

[Bisharah] Lebanon and its institutions.

[Malkan] Which ones in particular?

[Bisharah] First of all, Parliament, then public opinion, the trade unions and professional associations, the media...

*** Islamic Group Deputy Critical of Administration**
96AA0020C Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English
11 Sep 95 pp 20-21

[Interview with Member of Parliament Zuhayr al-'Ubaydi by Nadim Abu-Ghannam; place and date not given — first five paragraphs are MONDAY MORNING introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Member of Parliament Zuhayr al-'Ubaydi is unsparing in his criticism of the Lebanese Administration, not only the conduct of economic and social policy by the cabinet of Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, but, also in the actions of the "troika" comprising the three top leaders.

Speaking in an interview, al-'Ubaydi — a member of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group], a mainly Sunni grouping of fundamentalist views — said he considered the government's policy on the economic-social level "as being inimical to the great majority of the public," adding: "It is, instead, a policy which panders to the interests of financiers, owners of big companies in Lebanon, and big investors," noting as an example the recent law which set income tax at a flat rate of 10 percent, instead of being a progressive tax which rose as the size of income rises. This, al-'Ubaydi suggested, was "indicative of the government's wish — the prime minister himself has said it — to make Lebanon a 'tax paradise' so that this company [as printed] will be better able to compete with Israel in attracting foreign investment in the period following a peace settlement with Tel Aviv... The country may well be a 'tax paradise' for foreign investors, but it's also a tax hell for the Lebanese people," he said.

MP al-'Ubaydi noted the role assigned by the Constitution to the legislature of supervising and checking the actions of the executive, in theory the Council of Ministers, but, he argued, it was not so much the Council which governed as the troika, over whose actions Parliament had no control.

He pointed out, too, that many MP's felt that "a number of public bodies have been 'abducted' by politicians who use the income of these institutions for their own benefit, without any control being exercised over them...

Frankly, the financial measures the government takes are intended to benefit prominent personalities, who divide the spoils of office among themselves... We believe there can be no administrative reform before there is political reform, above all, before there is a change in the outlook of certain politicians in this country."

Here is a translation of the interview:

[Abu-Ghannam] How will tension in South Lebanon affect the peace negotiations in the Middle East?

[Al-'Ubaydi] The problem of Israeli-occupied territory in the South and in West al-Biqa is similar to that in other Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967, and in 1948, when the Zionist entity was planted in Arab land. These territories form an Israeli pressure toll in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, in order to impose conditions of surrender on the Arab nation. We consider the repeated attacks on Lebanon's South and West al-Biqa a link in a long chain of attacks, which are, as I say, a form of pressure on the Arab negotiator. As for the calm, we witness every now and then, it is a sort of sedative used by the Israeli war machine to disintegrate and break the link between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in the negotiations. As an Islamic movement for change, we reject in principle negotiations with an enemy which occupies Arab land. These negotiations are rejected by the broad Islamic trend, not only in Lebanon, but in all the Arab world. The reason is that we consider the Zionist entity an extraneous entity which understands no language other than the language of war and arms. That is why, in our political program, we ask the Arab states to coordinate efforts to establish a strong Arab front to confront Israel, to deter aggression against any Arab state. Unfortunately, the concessions made by the Arab regimes which signed treaties and agreements with Israel, from the Camp David Agreement to the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty and the Gaza-Jericho accord, have thrown the Arab world into the hands of the Israelis.

[Abu-Ghannam] In the light of what you've said, do you believe that the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli and on the Israeli-Lebanese tracks will be postponed until after the Israeli parliamentary elections, or will these negotiations be resumed soon?

[Al-'Ubaydi] Despite its attacks and its duplicity, Israel has not succeeded in imposing its will on Syria and Lebanon. We see that despite the Gaza-Jericho accord and the concessions made by the Palestinian leadership, the Israelis have made no compensations in return, whether on the level of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, or the expansion of what is called the autonomous rule to the other parts of the West Bank. Nor has Jordan received what was coming to it in terms of its

treaty with Tel Aviv, either in terms of water on of [as printed] the land occupied by Israel. This Israeli deception was followed by another, that of "renting" certain Jordanian territory to Israel for a long term. This deception alerted the Syrian and Lebanese governments, which postponed the negotiations, in accordance with the factors witnessed by the negotiating parties, particularly following statements by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres, announcing that the negotiations would be postponed until after the end of the Israeli Parliamentary elections in 1996. It would, therefore, seem that the situation in the Arab world awaits the outcome of the forthcoming Israeli elections.

[Abu-Ghannam] Economic conditions are very difficult for many people. How would you comment on the government's failure to devise a socioeconomic policy?

[Al-'Ubaydi] If we evaluate the government's policy on the economic and social levels, we will see that it is unbalanced and that the government is ignoring factors which affect the public's living standards.

When the first al-Hariri cabinet was formed in October of 1992, all the Lebanese hoped that the economic situation would improve. The exchange rate of the Lebanese pound to the dollar improved, from 2,600 Lebanese pounds to the dollar in October 1992 to 1,612 Lebanese pounds now, but certain impudent merchants took advantage of this improvement in the status of the Lebanese pound, continuing to set prices on the basis of the dollar rate at 2,600 Lebanese pounds, so that prices did not fall as people had expected.

During a recent session of the parliamentary Committee on Economy and Trade, to which I belong, members discussed the issue of rising prices and the failure of the government to do anything to protect consumers from rapacious shopkeepers. We decided to form a subcommittee to look into retail prices to ascertain whether prices had fallen at the same rate at which the dollar-rate had fallen. The subcommittee subsequently found that prices had not, in general, fallen in line with the improvement in the exchange rate; far from it. But no note was taken of our report by the authorities, as if there was a conspiracy of silence on the part of officialdom not to lay this matter before Parliament.

I have pointed out this scandal more than once, but nobody listens. I consider the government's policy on the economic-social level as being inimical to the interests of the great majority of the public. It is, instead, a policy which panders to the interests of financiers, owners of big companies in Lebanon, and big investors. As an example, I note the extraordinary law the government has had Parliament enact, which

fixes the income tax at a flat rate of 10 percent, instead of being a progressive tax increasing as a merchant's income increases. This is indicative of the government's wish — the prime minister himself has said it — to make Lebanon a "tax paradise" so that this country will be better able to compete with Israel in attracting foreign investment in the period following a peace settlement with Tel-Aviv, when Lebanon will have surrendered to the Jewish state. The country may well be a "tax paradise" for foreign investors, but it's also a tax hell for the Lebanese people.

In this connection, I cannot refrain from recalling the fat profits the France Telecom and Siemens companies have — according to the admission of Telecommunications Minister al-Fadl Shalaq himself — in setting up a cellular telephone system, despite the fact that the system malfunctions constantly. At the same time, the sums the government has devoted to the cellular system have been diverted from rehabilitation of the conventional phone system, whose performance also leaves much to be desired. It's another example of officialdom catering to the wants of foreign companies at the expense of the Lebanese.

And what of the State's failure to supervise the activity of the Beirut financial market? The Ahmad Da'ouq scandal, which hurt a large number of those Lebanese who had invested money in his company, is a case in point. It would seem there are no laws to regulate the use of funds invested in firms like Da'ouq's, which means that he and others — and they are numerous in the Lebanese market — can invest the money of Lebanese depositors in various speculations. It is not enough for the State to regulate the origin of the money which is invested in such companies. It must also supervise how the money is used, to see that the rights and interests of depositors are maintained.

Frankly, the financial measures the government takes are intended to benefit prominent personalities, who divide the spoils of office among themselves. Their well-publicized disagreement are largely differences over how to share those spoils out. Is it fair that the country should be prey to the personal ambitions and selfish greed of those in authority? Would that the prevailing mentality in the corridors of power will change, so we can build a nation of honest and effective institutions on which we can base our political and administrative processes.

As it is, we in Parliament feel that a number of public bodies have been "abducted" by politicians who use the income of these institutions for their own benefit, without any control being exercised over them. We believe there can be no administrative reform before

there is political reform, above all, before there is a change in the outlook of certain politicians in this country.

[Abu-Ghannam] How do you see the government's failure to organize elections for mayors and municipal councils?

[Al-'Ubaydi] The municipalities are a diminishing part of Lebanon's democratic life, with the local government that are actually defunct being administered by the district commissioners (*qa'immaqams*) under the supervision of the Interior Minister. This means the Interior Ministry is free to do what it likes with their revenues, in accordance with the wish of the government.

[Abu-Ghannam] There are those who say we may be heading towards some form of military rule. How can we deal with that?

[Al-'Ubaydi] I think the facts on the ground give reason for such fears, especially what happened on July 19, when the security forces acted with great force to repress demonstrations being staged by working people during a general strike. The ban on demonstrations is a violation of the Constitution, which protects freedom of expression and of opinion, and what are peaceful demonstrations other than a means of expressing opinion?

As I said during demonstration in Bisharah al-Khuri St., we are now confronting a virtual dictatorship.

[Abu-Ghannam] What is the stand of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah on the much-discussed proposal to extend the term of President Ilyas al-Hirawi?

[Al-'Ubaydi] Our Political Bureau has given special attention to this subject, we do not see that such an extension would be of any benefit to Lebanon. We do not, however, object to amendment of the Constitution to make it possible for all Maronite citizens to be a candidate for the presidential office, which is not now possible, as the text of the Constitution stands.

I say it very clearly: the continuing rule by the troika is a violation of the Constitution because it restricts the authority of the Council of Ministers. It is because of the troika system that Parliament often complains that it does not know whom to hold responsible or hold accountable for certain matters. In principle, it is the Council of Ministers which we should hold responsible for conduct of State policy. But in fact, it is the troika which is conducting that policy, and we in the legislature have no way of calling the troika to account. That's why democracy in Lebanon is out of order. We consider that because of this disorder, there is no justification for an extension of the mandate.

As you know, about a quarter of the Lebanese people have to live in poverty, a fact confirmed by statistics of the United Nations Development gram [as printed] A family of five has to earn at least 300 dollars a month to pay for food alone, so how can it pay for other expenses like clothing, housing, medical care, school fees, etc.? It's a deplorable fact that not a few people die at the doors of hospitals because their relatives can't afford the cost of their medical care.

If what is meant by "extension" is keeping matters as they are, then we cannot support such a step.

[Abu-Ghannam] On what do the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and Hezbollah agree, and on what do they differ?

[Al-'Ubaydi] As an Islamic movement for change, we are in agreement with all such movements which seek the best interests of this country. Our relationship with Hezbollah is a firm one, and we have phased coordination with each other, especially in regard to proposed legislation and political issues, in order to work out a unified stand. In this we are at one with all forces for change in the country.

We have good relations with Hezbollah, and there is a continuing exchange of visits between our leaders and political committees and theirs. Notably, we stand together in our support for resistance to the Israeli enemy, so that the land may be liberated from occupation.

Al-Ahmar Meets Expatriates, Reiterates Peace Stand

JN2911153995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the Pan-Arab Committee on Expatriates, has resumed his meetings and contacts with the expatriate community in the United States. Al-Ahmar led Syria's delegation to the 11th conference of the Federation of Arab-American Organizations in Miami.

Comrade al-Ahmar and his accompanying delegation met with members of the Syrian community in Washington last night in the presence of Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim.

During the meeting comrade al-Ahmar spoke about our people's celebrations on the glorious Corrective Movement's silver jubilee and the achievements it has made throughout 25 years under the leadership of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, comrade al-Ahmar spoke about Syria's pan-Arab role and serious action in defending the Arab nation's causes and interests, and in bolstering joint Arab action in facing the challenges of pan-Arab developments and the plans and schemes through which Israel seeks to impose its hegemony over the region and its resources.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed the firm Syrian stand toward the peace process as a strategic option. He said: Syria exerts further efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the implementation of the UN Security Council which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines, from southern Lebanon, and all the other occupied Arab territories.

Comrade al-Ahmar added: Peace has basic requirements, the most important of which is the full termination of occupation, in addition to equitability [takafu'] and equality [musawah] in all the agreed security measures.

He stressed that security is for all sides, and not for one party at the expense of another party, its rights, and territories.

Comrade al-Ahmar then listened to the questions and queries posed by the sons of the community, and answered all their questions related to their conditions and roles in their new societies, and to the developments of the situation in the region. He stressed that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has

confidence in itself and its ability to pursue the march of construction and liberation.

At the end of the meeting the expatriates thanked Syria and its leader, President Hafiz al-Asad, for taking care of them and of their issues. They expressed their pride in Syria's honorable stand and defense of Arab rights, and their adherence to al-Asad's policy in the battles of construction and liberation.

Paper: 'Shift' in Israeli Peace Concept Required

JN2911175295 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, SANA, 29 Nov (SANA)— AL-BA'TH newspaper has said that the Barcelona Declaration circumvented the familiar Western discourse that flatters Israel. It acknowledged the wronged party's right to resist the aggressor, as well as the UN's rejection of occupation and aggression. [passage omitted]

For its part, AL-THAWRAH newspaper asserts that Israel has used various ways to maneuver, to set impossible conditions, to blackmail, and to circumvent the essence, realities, and constant national and pan-Arab principles of peace, but that this policy has always failed to achieve its goals, because Syria maintains firm, unequivocal positions defined by leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad on every occasion peace was discussed. Syria, the paper adds, has always stressed that it will not relinquish any of its national and pan-Arab rights or any particle of its soil on the Golan. It also rejected occupation and every attempt to replace it with another formula of occupation.

In its editorial today, the newspaper said that peace cannot be achieved through maneuvers, impossible conditions, and making statements on Syria's right to liberate the Golan and on the importance of peace with Syria and its role in achieving it, but through true desire for peace, through serious work to achieve it in accordance with the rules which were approved in Madrid, and through taking a clear-cut path in light of these rules.

The paper adds: Hence, progress on the Syrian track, the most important track in the peace process and a major key to this process, requires a basic shift in Israel's peace concept in complete harmony with the international legitimacy calling for a total Israeli withdrawal.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH asserts that by declaring its commitment to returning to beyond the June 1967 lines and translating Peres' new statements on the importance of peace with Syria and its firm right to the

Golan into steps on the ground, Israel will have returned to the clear path of peace that will lead to a true and full peace.

Israeli Peace Rhetoric, Lebanon Raids Said To Coincide

JN2911193795 *Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic*
28 Nov 95 p 9

["An Opinion" column by 'Ali al-Siwan: "The Paradox of Aggression and Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israelis are continuing their aggression against southern Lebanon. Reports said their artillery was shelling peaceful villages in the south. While their warplanes bombed other positions, their tanks moved to spread destruction and terrify the citizens.

The paradox is that the aggression coincides with pro-peace statements by the Israelis themselves.

Such aggression on Lebanon proves the aggressors have bad intentions toward the whole peace process. Peace cannot be made with words. Refraining from aggression will lead to the credibility of any talk about peace.

Aggression on southern Lebanon conflicts with efforts to create a suitable atmosphere for progress in the peace process.

Reports that Israel's peace policy changed after Rabin's assassination are doubted because of these aggressions on southern Lebanon.

This reality cannot be weakened by Israel's claims that the Lebanese are resisting the occupation.

The Lebanese people's resistance of Israel's occupation is not only a right, but also a national duty prompted by human norms and international legitimacy throughout history.

What should come to an end is not Lebanon's resistance, but Israel's continued aggression and occupation.

What should be nullified is not the Lebanese people's national right to self-defense, but Israel's violation of the logic and requirements of peace.

Lebanese 'Resistance' Called 'Purely Lebanese Action'

JN3011104895 *Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today under the headline "The Ball Is in Israel's Court," TISHRIN says: Israel has long been bombarding the towns and

villages of southern Lebanon. Israel does this on a daily basis. From time to time, Israeli warplanes carry out savage raids whose victims are civilians and their property.

The paper adds: After assuming power in Israel, Peres should have supported his statements about the need for peace by halting the daily attacks on the towns and villages of southern Lebanon, and not by escalating these attacks.

TISHRIN adds: Advancing the peace process requires a positive atmosphere and a lull in military activities, however, no one in the region has seen any such initiative from Israel. On the contrary, attacks have escalated through air raids.

The paper goes on: Lebanese civilians are either killed or injured in these raids. Consequently, the resistance, every now and then, shells the settlements as a reminder that it, too, can harm Israel. This does not mean that Syria asked the Lebanese resistance to do this.

TISHRIN says the national resistance is a purely Lebanese action that stems from the conviction and willpower of the Lebanese. Israel's accusations in this respect are not worth discussing. This is because had it not been for Israeli escalation, there would not have been escalation by the other side.

TISHRIN says Israel is responsible for what is happening. This is because Israel is occupying southern Lebanon and is the one that created an army of agents whose mission is to terrorize civilians. Israel is also the party that refuses to implement Resolution 425 and obstructs the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

The paper concludes: Cooling the situation in southern Lebanon and achieving peace and security in the region is in the hands of Israel. Syria and Lebanon have done their best to comply with the requirements of peace. The ball is now in Israel's court.

Commenting on the same issue, AL-BA'TH says: It might not be strange for Israel to attack southern Lebanon without any reason or by creating flimsy pretexts. This is a familiar thing. What is strange, however, is that this Israeli escalation should reach the level of a military hysteria at a time when Shim'on Peres has been talking a lot about peace and the desire to advance the peace process since he assumed premiership and became head of the Labor Party.

AL-BA'TH blames the rulers of Israel for the escalation in southern Lebanon. Observing the situation in the south over the past few days, there is no doubt that the Israeli rulers have ordered escalating the situation and

bombarding the villages, homes, and residential areas, as well as mounting attacks with various weapons.

AL-BA'TH adds: The rulers of Israel know full well that this aggressive action entails a natural reaction that is an act of self-defense. This is part of a legitimate right to resisting the occupation and its crimes.

The paper wonders about the objective which the Israeli rulers seek to achieve behind this. Whatever the motive of the Peres government, these aggressive actions do not constitute a certificate of good conduct for this government. Nor are these actions conducive to the resumption of peace talks and to making them achieve their objective.

AL-BA'TH adds: No one can deny the Lebanese their right to self-defense against the occupation. The occupiers should leave in implementation of Resolution 425 and the principles of international legitimacy.

Israel Said 'Avoiding Reality' in Peace Negotiations
JN291164495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1237 GMT 29 Nov 95

[State on commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Talking about peace is one thing, and making peace is something else. Peace cannot be made by words, but by deeds. The road to peace and its requirements are clear. This is if Israel really wants peace; then it has only to move from the stage of words to that of deeds. Deeds should begin with a frank and clear commitment to international legitimacy, UN Security Council resolutions, and the U.S. initiative. In other words, an announcement on commitment to full withdrawal and to accepting equal [mutasawiyah], parallel [mutawaziyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security arrangements. Syria was the first to take action. It has announced its commitment to a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative. It has also advocated full peace for full withdrawal. If the Israelis are serious in stating that the scope of withdrawal is proportional to the depth of peace, then let them declare their readiness to fully withdraw just as Syria announced its readiness for full peace.

Israel evades a just, comprehensive peace. It avoids mentioning the bases on which the peace process was launched. It is very careful in steering its talk about peace far from the essence of the UN Security Council resolutions and the U.S. initiatives. It has concluded agreements with Arab parties outside the framework of these bases. However, avoiding reality does not mean changing it, for peace will either be just and comprehensive, or its achievement will be

impossible. The world is unanimous that peace will not be just unless it is comprehensive, and will not be comprehensive except by implementing the UN Security Council resolutions; namely, full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the attainment of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights. Southern Lebanon, the Golan, and the Arab territories Israel occupied during its 1967 aggression are all occupied Arab territories. Consequently, the return of these territories to their owners, and guaranteeing all sides' rights and dignities, constitute the most important conditions of peace, its success, and continuation. When Syria calls for this, it announces its commitment to the international legitimacy, but it does not set conditions or ask Israel to make any concession. In fact, it calls on Israel to accept the international legitimacy.

It is an axiom that the process of peacemaking necessitates the elimination of the causes of the conflict; namely, occupation and the policy of expansion and hegemony, in order to achieve the aspired peace which fulfills the desire of the international community and guarantees all sides' security and rights based on justice and comprehensiveness.

Paper Praises Barcelona Conference Outcome

JN3011092595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 30 Nov 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Requirements of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership" AL-THAWRAH says: The huge potentials of the parties to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership make it possible to talk about a new era of continuous development. This underscores the need to achieve peace in accordance with the declaration which underlines the principle of full Israeli withdrawal, because a stability and security imbalance will continue if Israel persists in occupying the Golan and southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH adds that there will be no development, peace, or stability if all Arab lands and rights are not restored. All future plans and programs will not materialize if the Mediterranean does not turn — as Syria wants it through President Hafiz al-Asad — into a sea of peace and friendship in whose skies seagulls — not aircraft of aggression — fly, and which is traversed by ships of cooperation among peoples, and not by carriers of death and destruction.

In another commentary on the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: The results of the Barcelona conference requires the convergence of the efforts of all Mediterranean and European states to translate them on

the ground, to strengthen rapprochement between the two sides, and to promote cooperation between them. The objective is to achieve their common goals and interests, particularly with regard to providing the ways and means to help remove the hotbeds of tension and danger in the Mediterranean region, and find just and peaceful solutions to the existing disputes in it. AL-THAWRAH adds: The Barcelona conference has defined the future concepts for dialogue and cooperation between the two shores of the Mediterranean and has

painted on the horizon the optimistic and positive features of the nature of relations in the upcoming stage.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH expresses hope that these relations will develop solidly to set up a real partnership to serve the common interests of all parties, and pave the road for a new age in the Mediterranean in which security, stability, and prosperity prevail.

Afghanistan

Taleban, Coordination Council Talks 'Broken Down'

LD2911151895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban-High Coordination Council talks on forming an alliance to mount a joint attack on Kabul have broken down. According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Taleban group was insisting on mounting joint operations against Kabul while the Afghan government opposition grouping, the High Coordination Council, is not ready to cooperate with them in this respect. It believes in full agreement on the form of a government [first]. According to the report it is the umpteenth time that the High Coordination Council and the Taleban have met in Islamabad in order to reach an agreement on forming an alliance to sack the government in Kabul but every time the talks break down without reaching an agreement.

On the other hand reports say that the High Coordination Council is trying to persuade Sebghatollah Mojaddedi to return to the Council. Mojaddedi resigned as the head of the Coordination Council in protest talks held between some members of the Council and government representatives last Monday [27 November].

Government Announces Tank, Weapon Confiscation

LD2911114895 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 29, IRNA — The Afghan Government announced Tuesday [28 November] that it discovered and confiscated the contents of a large warehouse located in the town of Deh Sabz, which was filled with 25 armored tanks, four units of mini-Katyusha and a sizeable quantity of light weapons and ammunitions.

The Afghanistan Defense Ministry reported on the same day that the arms stockpile had been hidden by the former commander of the Hezb-e Harkat-e Enqelab-e Eslami (Islamic Revolution Movement Party), Mawlawi Sadeqollah.

Also the former commander of Division 16 of Afghanistan, Sadeqollah recently left the division along with a group of his men and defected to the Taleban group.

Sayed Maqbol Shah replaced Sadeqollah as commander of the division but he also communicated with and dispatched a group of his forces to the Talebans, causing the collapse of the famed "Pol-e Charkhi" prison.

Maqbol Shah later surrendered himself to the Afghan governmental forces.

The Afghan Government believes the treason of Maqbol Shah and his collaboration with the Talebans is the reason for the government's defeat in southeastern Kabul.

Government Recaptures 'Lost Ground' From Taleban

BK2911120695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khurd Kabul, Afghanistan, Nov 29 (AFP) — Afghan government troops Wednesday [29 November] recaptured 20 kilometers (12 miles) of lost ground from the Taleban militia in a major attack on the eastern flank of the besieged capital Kabul.

The army overran four key villages southeast of the capital as well as a strategic military stronghold in a disused prison at Pol-e Charkhi, 15 kilometers (nine miles) east of Kabul in the operation which began late Tuesday, army and defence officials said.

"This is a major victory for us," a defence ministry official said. "This (front) was a gateway into Kabul for the Taleban, but we have closed it," he added.

Witnesses on the front saw that the forces had swept across the area and cleared it of Taleban positions. They had seized control of all strategic posts and villages in the area and were placing troopers in the region, the witnesses saw.

The spectacular success for the troops loyal to President Borhannodin Rabbani came 12 days after a massive Taleban attack on the eastern side of Kabul in which they seized about 20 kilometers (12 miles) of government territory.

The onslaught raised fears here that the militiamen would cut off the already besieged capital from the east.

The militiamen, who now have Kabul hemmed in on three major fronts to the south and southwest, have vowed to seize the city, to topple the Rabbani administration and to impose Islamic law on the whole country.

Government Operations Continue Against Taleban

LD2911133595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a series of operations, the Afghan government forces have recaptured the areas that were captured by the Taleban in the south and east of Kabul last week. According to a report by the

central news department correspondent, the operation to liberate the areas started with the capture of the Pol-e Charkhi prison, the Taleban's strongest position in southeast Kabul. The operation continued after the seizure of a 2280 meter mountaintop overlooking Band-e Ghazi and other areas with the government forces having the initiative, practically.

The report says that by this morning the Pol-e Charkhi prison, Botkhak, Khvord-Kabul, Band-e Ghazi, and Chakari have been liberated. As a result of the defeat in the Taleban forces' ranks, the government forces advance is continuing. The government forces have captured some more areas on top of those seized by the Taleban recently. The fighting is continuing in Chakari.

Seventeen Killed in Taleban Attack on Kabul

BK3011103995 Hong Kong AFP in English
1035 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov 30 (AFP) — Seventeen civilians were killed and 26 injured when the Taleban militia launched a rocket barrage on Kabul on Thursday [30 November], to avenge a major military defeat a day earlier, defence and hospital officials said.

The salvo of six rockets hit homes, bazaar stalls and streets in a central market area of the besieged Afghan capital during the peak morning shopping hours, witnesses said.

Sixteen of the victims were killed on the spot when the rockets began pounding the old city of Kabul, one of the wounded died later in hospitals, doctors and witnesses told AFP.

Government forces said Wednesday they had taken back strategic positions east of Kabul won by the Islamic militia last week.

Bangladesh

Election Commissioner Stresses Fair Polls

BK2611135095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in Bengali 1200 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chief Election Commissioner Justice A.K.M. Sadeq has said that the Election Commission, political parties, and the candidates should arrive at a consensus to ensure free and fair elections. He was addressing the inaugural session of a workshop to train election polling agents in Dhaka today. Justice Sadeq said that democracy can be institutionalized only by holding free and impartial elections. He said that the Election Commission is now capable of doing everything as it has been strengthened by necessary legislation and other steps. Justice Sadeq said that observers from home and abroad will be invited to monitor the

elections. In this context, he said that the whole world had commended the elections held in 1991 and we have to uphold this dignity in future as well.

Bombs Explode Near Zia's Office, Ministers' Homes

BK30111055695 Hong Kong AFP in English
0543 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Nov 30 (AFP) — Unidentified men hurled home-made bombs near the office of Bangladesh's Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and at the homes of two of her ministers, press reports and police said Thursday [30 November].

No-one was injured in the explosions outside Zia's walled office complex late Wednesday and at the homes of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and Water Resources Minister Majidul Haq in Dhaka's upmarket Gulshan district, press reports said.

A fourth attack took place outside the Members of Parliament Hostel, adjacent to parliament house, newspaper said.

The attacks came as a 19-month political standoff between the government and opposition lingered amid fears of further clashes in the coming days.

Although both sides continued to press for a peaceful solution, a breakthrough still seems far off.

The opposition is demanding Zia's resignation and elections under a neutral caretaker administration. Zia has slammed as "unconstitutional."

The 330-member parliament was dissolved a week ago, with Zia continuing as interim premier until elections scheduled for early 1996.

Both Zia and her arch-political rival Sheikh Hasina Wajed are due to leave Thursday for the port city of Chittagong, a trip observers say is part of election campaigning.

India

Rao: U.S. Arms to Pakistan Causing 'Anxiety'

BK2911161595 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I president and Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has said that the Clinton administration's decision to supply arms to Pakistan is causing some anxiety to India. Addressing the General Body meeting of the Congress-I party in Parliament, he said the Hank Brown Amendment on supply of arms is disturbing because of its implications. Mr. Rao said the decision has to be analyzed in terms of

its impact on India's defense expenditure and the need for diversion of resources from developmental funds.

About Kashmir, the Congress-I president asked the partymen to go to the people and explain the party's position. Mr. Rao stressed the need to ensure that the welfare program launched by the government must reach the beneficiaries.

U.S. Ties Examined After U.S. Pakistan Arms Deal
 BK2811170895 *Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English*
 28 Nov 95 p 8

[Report by V.K. Madhavan Khutty]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] External Affairs Minister Pranab Kumar Mukherjee reacted promptly, on expected lines, that the American arms to Pakistan will upset the military balance in the subcontinent, India will have to increase its defence budget and the American decision will adversely affect the India-United States and India-Pakistan relations. Very promptly the foreign office conveyed its concern and anguish to the United States Government. The media also did not lag behind. They came out with strong editorial comments warning the government against the United States and Pakistani designs and advising to take counter measures. Such reactions and rituals have been going on for the last 40 years ever since America started arming Pakistan, with little effect on the U.S. Administration — Democratic or Republican. The spokesman of the Congress party reacted by saying it is the way of doing things in America. Whether he was authorised or not, he was expected to comment that the U.S. decision has nothing to do with Prime Minister's visit to New York. Probably he was pre-empting any press criticisms to that effect.

There should be a link between traditional imperialism and the contemporary variety. It is Pakistan plus United States of America, as far as Indo-Pak issues are concerned. The common man in our country knows why the United States is so obsessed in strangulating India economically, unleashing the multinational corporation power on it in the name of globalisation and strengthening Pakistan by arming it.

In the Fifties and later, the United States was seeking to contain India by building up Pakistan, as India under Pandit Nehru refused to be a subordinate partner and wanted to develop into a centre of power. In the changed circumstances of the Eighties and the Nineties, India no longer takes up that stance and has considerably toed the U.S. line on economic and trade policies. It should be noted here that Pranab Mukherjee also spoke of relations between India and the United States which are multi-dimensional and that the approach of both the governments was not to permit differences to prevent

cooperation in mutually beneficial areas. But the U.S. is not satisfied and wants to bring India to her knees. It is time to recall what Panditji had told in 1955: "Whatever the future may hold, this is not going to happen."

As we repeat our reactions parrot-like every time, America tilts towards Pakistan, and also repeats that the arms they give to Pakistan is not meant against India. But is America capable of preventing the receiver from using it for whatever purpose it wants? The recipient may not act as the donor desires. The United States was told of this many times by India. Krishna Menon, speaking in the Security Council in 1957, said, "For our act of self-abnegation not to use atomic power for destructive purposes, we are threatened by the other side with attacks from the rear and, for the first time, exercises are taking place with atomic tactical weapons. Not a needle is given by the United States possesses — moral, physical, political, dollar and everything else — it would be impossible for them to control what Pakistan has, any more than a parent can control the use of a pistol or pen-knife by a child. That is the position." They have to be told now that "Weapons of war have no magazines for intentions, their only magazines are for projectile power." Despite American assurances, Pakistan had used these arms against India and continue to do so even now whether it is by helping mohajirs, terrorists, guerrillas or other saboteurs against India. All that apart from the time of Revolutionary War, the U.S. has found ways in order to get obligations which could no longer be applicable, including one time exceptions. Even if India accepts the motives of the United States, not the correctness or otherwise, the facts are that the weight of these arms is a potent quantity in the impeding development of Pakistan itself which is necessary for us.

The United States should understand that India wants issues to be settled with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully. It is to be believed that one section of the state department is for this while the other section has a strong bias towards Pakistan. However, what is to be recalled now is that there is nothing in U.S. policy, now or in the past, which indicates "the abandonment of using Pakistan as original surrogate."

Having said this, former diplomat and foreign policy expert A.K. Damodaran recently observed, "We will have to learn to live with this and also learn to intervene in American domestic process to influence decision making in Washington. Most of all, we will have to refurbish our domestic policies in such a manner as to render less vulnerable to the interferences from our neighbours." Huge hoardings enroute from Indira Gandhi airport to Race Course Road to greet Prime Minister on his return from abroad and more

commercial type appearance on Doordarshan will not do. Lobbyists appointed by India too have failed. Lobbying alone is the answer. Speaking to be heard is necessary. Where is that voice?

Two countries which are neighbours and not friendly to catch other, like India and Pakistan, are getting arms from the United States. Israel gets more in quantity and more sophisticated ones. To a lesser extent, Egypt also gets arms from Pakistan. India does not want arms aid from anybody and it has been her consistent stand all along. But even if India wants to buy them for her own defence and to meet the threats from her neighbour, America would invoke super law Article 301 regarding intellectual property and advance scientific know-how. The Clinton administration has gone much further than his two immediate predecessors in supporting Brown Amendment and repealing Pressler Amendment. Still, we are supposed to trumpet that Indo-U.S. relations are on the upswing. It is time we told them in one voice that it is an unfriendly act amounting to abetting with those who are inimical to us.

I cannot write anything on the Indo-Pak relations or on Kashmir without referring to V.K. Krishna Menon. For, he was the person who placed Kashmir squarely, legally and constitutionally on the map of India and of course, along with Panditji, India on the map of the world. He is one person who consistently reminded that Pakistan is our enemy. For Krishna Menon, Pakistan was "theocratic and authoritarian; it was created 'by a dying imperialism and is sustained by another, on the basis of retrogressive and illegitimate principle of nationalism.'" History has vindicated him.

U.S. View of Pakistan Not Aiding 'Terrorism' Rejected

BK2911090695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi does not share the view of the Clinton administration that there is no proof of the Pakistan Government's involvement in terrorist activities in India to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. The minister of external affairs, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said during the question hour that, on the contrary, the available evidence, both within India and within the U.S. system, clearly establishes that Islamabad is actively engaged in financing, abetting, training, and arming of militants and infiltration into India, particularly Jammu and Kashmir. He said the U.S. State Department's annual report on the pattern of global terrorism has supported New Delhi's position that Pakistan is aiding and abetting terrorist activities in India. Mr. Mukherjee said the government is continuing and will continue its efforts to sensitize the United States and other friendly

countries on the matter and will impress upon them that there has been no change in Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism in India.

Muslim Group Calls For Release of Hostages

BK3011113095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Nov 30 (AFP) — Leaders of the Muslim separatist movement in the northern Indian state of Kashmir appealed to the kidnappers of four Western tourists on Thursday [30 November] to immediately release the hostages.

"Release the foreigners immediately as this will help us in the ongoing freedom struggle," the All-Party Kashmir Freedom Conference known as the Huriyat said in a statement released in this Kashmir summer capital.

"Their release will help us show to the world that we care for human rights," the umbrella organization of (730) Muslim separatist groups said.

The brief statement in Urdu added that kidnapping was contrary to the tenets of Islam and said the prolonged captivity of the four Westerners was detrimental to the campaign for an end to Indian rule over Kashmir.

Al-Faran, the previously unknown Muslim separatist group which kidnapped the four tourists in early July, has ignored previous appeals by individual Huriyat leaders and the body itself to release the captives.

The Huriyat has charged on previous occasions that the kidnapping was staged by Indian intelligence agencies to discredit the secessionist movement in the state. The latest statement did not repeat the allegation, however.

Al-Faran has demanded the release of 15 Muslim militants from Indian prisons in exchange for Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26.

The four were kidnapped by Al-Faran while trekking in the mountains around Pahalgam. A 27-year-old Norwegian, Hans-Christian Ostro, was abducted at the same time and beheaded by the militants in August.

Indian officials expressed concern on Wednesday for the safety of the four following the first heavy snowfall in the Kashmir Valley, where temperatures have plunged below freezing during the night.

The Indian authorities have repeatedly ruled out exchanging any prisoners for the hostages and said a rescue operation would endanger the lives of the captives. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh, Thailand Said Aiding 'Insurgent Outfits'*BK3011033995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The threat from continuing operations by militants and extremists in the northeast and western borders with the active connivance of intelligence agencies of Pakistan and Bangladesh was a major challenge being faced by the country.

Talking to newsmen on the eve of the raising day of the Border Security Force (BSF), the director general of the BSF, Mr. D.K. Arya, said the insurgent outfits in the northeast are acquiring sophisticated weapons from Thailand with the active help of agencies in Bangladesh. Mr. Arya said Islamabad is also actively supporting subversive activities through the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] which has established a number of bases inside Bangladesh.

Referring to the proposed elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Arya said that the BSF is ready to give a fitting reply to Pakistan or its agencies if they try to disrupt them.

Sri Lankan LTTE Cadres Said 'Militant,' 'Unbending'*BK3011032895 Delhi OUTLOOK in English 29 Nov 95 p 28*

[Report by A.S. Panneesvelan in Madras and Waruna Karunatilake in Colombo: "Enter the Tiger Cubs. The LTTE Turns to a New Generation of Angry Young Leaders"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almost a month after the Sri Lankan Army launched "Operation Riveresa", it is poised to enter Jaffna. It has been slow going for the army, faced as it is by some stiff defence by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). "We are one kilometre from city limits," army spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told journalists on November 17. "The army will consolidate for three to four days before launching the final offensive."

When the army captures Jaffna, it will be the first time since 1985 that it will take control of this vital city in the north. In 1985, India and Sri Lanka had arranged a cease fire with the Tamil rebels, in which the army had been confined to barracks and the city was occupied and run by various Tamil militant groups. By 1986, the LTTE had killed the leaders of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and forced other rebel groups to hand in their weapons.

Getting rid of opponents, whether inside or outside the organisation, has never been a difficult proposition for

the LTTE, which is what helped it to dominate the Tamil movement. In the process, the complexion of the LTTE leadership has also changed dramatically. Observers feel one of the reasons for the rejection of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga's peace package was her failure to recognise the emergence of a new power structure in the LTTE.

The murder of former rebel military commander Mahattya after a year in captivity opened a new chapter in the chequered history of the LTTE. "Mahattya is no more. He was executed for plotting to kill Prabhakaran," said the LTTE's chief ideologue Anton Balasingham. The killing ended the domination of the pre-1983 anti-Tamil riots generation of LTTE leaders. Apart from Prabhakaran, Baby Subramaniam is the only first generation leader still alive and associated with the movement. The second-rank leadership comprising Sadasivam Krishna Kumar (Kittu), Gopalasamy Mahendrarajah (Mahattya), Charles Antony and Uma Maheswaran (who later broke away from the LTTE to form PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam]), are all dead. Theoreticians like Ragavan, Nirmala Nithyanandam, Rahim and Raghu have left the organisation and are in the West. The politics of the new generation of young leaders is distinctly different from the earlier one.

The present leadership was not involved in the earlier phases of the struggle and it has no faith in any of the political parties in south. The average age of this leadership is 25, which means most of them were five years old when Prabhakaran formed the LTTE in May 1976, notes V. Balakumar, former general secretary of EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] and now a senior LTTE leader. "The present leaders and cadres joined us not out of any larger political or ideological compulsion. They were the direct victims of the Sinhala oppression and every one of them has lost at least one person in his/her family to state terrorism." Hence, the mood of these leaders and cadres is much more militant and unbending.

Unfortunately, the change in attitude was overlooked while planning the peace package, leaving the people of north-east Sri Lanka trapped between intransigent warmongers and unimaginative peacemakers. Even New Delhi still talks about the salient features of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of July 1987, the extradition of Prabhakaran, Pottu Amman and Akila, the prime accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination. Akila, who headed the LTTE'S women's intelligence wing was killed in the latest Sri Lankan offensive, which has brought the army to the gates of Jaffna. Apart from Akila, the army claims that Balraj, the deputy commander of the LTTE'S military wing, was injured in the fighting.

For the final assault, the air force will deploy three MI-24 armour-plated helicopter gunships. The gunships and their pilots have been loaned by Russia, which is expected to deliver six such helicopters to Colombo in December. This will be first time that these gunships — which can fly low to avoid anti-aircraft missiles in the LTTE'S arsenal — will be used. The air force is also expecting some Kfir ground attack aircraft and their pilots from Israel, though they are unlikely to arrive in time for the final offensive.

But the troops will be entering a ghost town, as almost all its residents fled when the army tightened its grip on the area. Most of them have taken refuge in Chavakachcheri, south of Jaffna. "There are at least 90,000 people in camps in this area. There are many more living with relatives and friends. We do not have an exact figure," says Gerard Peytrignet, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Colombo. However, "food is there. The problem is shelter and sanitation. We are working on it. It is not a crisis situation." But there are fears that the LTTE may use the civilians as human shields when the army makes its final move.

Strike Called To Protest Sri Lankan Events

BK2911160895 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 1530 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Tamil Nadu, various parties and Tamil Associations have called for dawn-to-dusk bundh [strike] tomorrow to protest against, what they call, the killing of innocent Tamilians in Sri Lanka. They are also seeking intervention of the center [central government] to persuade the Sri Lankan Government to halt the offensive. The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], the CPI [Communist Party of India], MDMK [Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], and PMK [Pattali Makkal Katchi] and the ruling AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] government have extended full support to the bundh. The Congress-I says that it is not opposed to the bundh. The state chief minister [Ms. Jayalalitha] has announced that all government offices and educational institutions will remain closed. The state transport will be off the road. Ms. Jayalalitha said that the state government has, however, made arrangements to maintain essential services in the state.

The Indian Airlines has also rescheduled its services during the bundh. According to a Central Railway press release, trains bound for Madras, Mangalore, and Cochin today are likely to be regulated or detained at various points.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in Pondicherry and Karaikal regions to prevent any untoward incident during the bundh period.

Strike Begins Against 'Killing'

BK3011044695 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 0245 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Tamil Nadu, a 12-hour bundh [strike] has begun in protest against what is considered the killing of innocent Tamils in Sri Lanka. The bundh call has been given by the opposition party — the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] — and supported by the PMK, MDMK, and CPI [Pattali Makkal Katchi, Marumalarchi DMK, and Communist Party of India].

The ruling AIADMK [All India Anna DMK] is supporting the bundh, while the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and the Congress- I have expressed concern at the serious situation in Sri Lanka. They are not participating in the bundh. The state government has made all arrangements to maintain essential services like water supply and medical services. Arrangements have also been made to maintain law and order. The political parties have sought intervention of the center to persuade the Sri Lankan Government to halt the military offensive in Jaffna. All state government offices and educational institutions remained closed. Road transport services have also been stopped and the railways and the Indian Airlines have rescheduled their services.

In Pondicherry also, a bundh is being observed today over the same issue. However, government offices, educational institutions and banks will function.

Russian Accord on Defense Supplies Said Signed

BK2911150895 *Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service* in English 1000 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia for guaranteed supply of defense equipment needed for maintenance, repair, overhaul, and modernization. This was indicated by the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, in the lower house [of parliament] today. In a written reply, the minister informed the members that after the breakup of the erstwhile USSR, the government has been pursuing a policy of establishing contacts with Russia and each of its successor states for promotion of defense cooperation. Mr. Mallikarjun said measures are being taken to sustain defense imports from other sources and also to strengthen indigenous production.

Leghari: 'Strategic' Development Plan Lacking
BK2311074095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST
in English 23 Nov 95 p 12

[APP report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore—President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the country has no comprehensive strategic plan to identify and develop requisite technologies for the production of marketable goods like the Asian Tiger countries.

He was speaking at the silver jubilee function of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Pakistan (IEEEEP) at a local hotel Wednesday [22 November] afternoon. Punjab governor, Lt-Gen. (Retd), Raja Muhammad Saroop Khan was also present on the occasion.

The president said that the technological history of Pakistan was that of missed opportunities and unavailing chances.

"We missed the chance to develop iron, steel and mining technologies in 1960s, electrical and semiconductor electronic in the 1970s and computer and telecommunications in the 1980s", Leghari regretted.

He said that at present, the nation was half way through 1990s, apparently without a defined methodology and action plan to acquire and develop technology based on manufacturing expertise and industries.

He urged engineers to provide the guidance and strategy to public and private sector so that the most appropriate products and technology could be developed in the country.

Leghari said that the governments in the past had set up numerous institutions like National Institute of Electronics, National Institute of Power and National Institute of Silicon Technology, but these institutes, he regretted, failed to achieve a meaningful objective.

He said that various government agencies and ministries had also failed to remove the impediments necessary for development of technology in the country.

Leghari said that the government was committed to provide the requisite infrastructure and support for the development of technology and downstream industries. But, he added, it was up to the private sector to produce the quality products that could be competitive in the global environment.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said that the local companies should develop a high-level of expertise in management and technology so that they could par-

ticipate productively in national products, either independently or in joint ventures with overseas companies. "The government is fully committed to providing maximum opportunity to local engineering design, consultancy and construction companies to help country fully develop a sustainable capability in these areas", Leghari said.

He said that problems of the manufacturing sector in the country were partly due to inability of the local manufacturing firm to comply with the international quality standards and lack of ISO-9000 registration. "I believe that currently there are only two companies in the electrical engineering manufacturing sector that are ISO-9000 certified", he added.

Leghari said that heavy foreign investment was coming in the country for setting up thermal power plants. The investment may touch the figure of \$20 billion in near future, he added.

Responding to a suggestion presented by the IEEEEP chief regarding the cut in the arms purchase to allocate more money on the university education, Leghari said that there would be defense purchases according to the requirement of the country.

"If Pakistan requires 40 aircraft, we will buy 40 aircraft", Leghari said.

However, he assured, the government would definitely allocate more amount for research and developmental works in the universities of the country.

He said that if DASO, the French company manufacturing Mirage fighters, produced the aircraft in Pakistan, it would not be a help to this country, but also the parent country in terms of cheaper labour.

President Farooq Ahmad Leghari also distributed special awards to late Engr. [Engineer] Tanveer Azhar, Dr. M. Y. Akhtar, Ch. A. Hameed, Dr. Irum Ikramullah and Dr. Khawar Zia, who had contributed to the development of the engineering.

Navy Chief Stresses Production of Submarines

BK2411150695 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The naval chief says the Indian Navy is capable of meeting its needs indigenously, but budgetary constraints sometimes affect its operational requirements. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, Admiral B.S. Shekhawat said the Navy has the added responsibility of guarding the largest exclusive economic zone.

Adm. Shekhawat expressed concern over the delay in according government approval for indigenous production of submarines. He said if the required funds are made available to the Mazagaon docks, the work could be taken up immediately. He said that the submarine production schedule should be a continuous process, keeping the threat perception in the Indian Ocean region in view.

Minister Dinesh Singh Dies After Illness

BK3011011395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister without portfolio, Mr. Dinesh Singh, passed away this morning at Wellington Hospital in New Delhi. He was ailing for several months. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has expressed grief over the death of Mr. Dinesh Singh.

Iran

Zarif on Bosnia Meeting, 'New Military Assistance'

LD3011083395 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA — Deputy foreign minister for international and legal affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, here Wednesday [29 November] termed the second meeting of the Organization of [the] Islamic Conference's [OIC] Assistance Mobilization Group (AMG) as fruitful.

Speaking to the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES, he said the participants made crucial decisions on rendering assistance. Terming the Bosnian peace accord unjust, Zarif said the OIC members stressed the need for comprehensive assistance (military and economic) to Bosnian Muslims.

Criticising the international community for failing to carry out its duties in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said "it is a stigma for the international community."

Elaborating on the decisions made, he said the Islamic countries decided to continue their assistance to Bosnian Muslims in order to strengthen Bosnia's military power. Moreover, taking into account recent agreements regarding creating a military balance (aiming at making peace durable in the region), the participating countries decided that new military assistance should be given to the Bosnian people.

Turning to the attempts of the West in their selective approach towards the OIC members for participation in the implementation of the peace accord, he said it was decided that all OIC members and its contact group be given a chance to participate in the implementation of the peace accord as a collective body.

The participants decided that they should have an active role at all stages of the implementation of the peace accord, Zarif added.

During the two-day negotiations Bosnian officials enumerated their needs. The participants agreed to undertake certain projects for reconstruction of Bosnia, he said, adding that each country would enter into bilateral talks with Bosnia to arrive at a practical way for implementing the projects.

The participants stressed the need for their presence in the ongoing peace process at this historic juncture, Zarif underlined.

The AMG will meet again in Islamabad after the holy month of Ramadan (late February 1996). AMG members will most likely meet before the 23rd meeting of the OIC foreign ministers, or at the time of the meeting to be held either in Conakry or Rabat on December 9 to follow up on the decisions of the earlier meetings.

Radio Views Velayati's Visit to Bosnia, Croatia

LD2911140495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 29 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati left for Zagreb early hours Wednesday November 29 for an official visit to Bosnia and Croatia.

Iranian foreign minister will, in the course of the visit, discuss ways of promoting relations and revive the political, regional, and international situation of Bosnia with the high-ranking officials of the two countries.

Before leaving Tehran, Dr. Velayati took part in the final session of the Islamic countries' mobilization of resources to help the Bosnians, which began Tuesday November 28. In the final session, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed before the high-ranking delegations in the conference that solving the problems of Bosnians, strengthening the technical capability of that country, as well as helping the reconstruction of that country is an Islamic obligation.

In another part of his speech the president thanked the aids granted to Bosnia during the war in that country, calling for the continuation of donation during the post-war era in that country as well. As pointed out by the president during the final session of the Islamic committee for helping Bosnians, some Islamic states did their best to assist the Bosnians defend their land in spite of the limitations enforced by the West.

If it wasn't for the active diplomacy of the Islamic countries, perhaps the international circles wouldn't give the Muslims the rights to the extent they did. President of the Islamic Republic of Iran held the same view on the Bosnian peace plan, believing it is unjust, but as the agreement will end the massacre of innocent Muslim people it should be supported. Islamic countries should not spare any efforts to boost the defense capability of Bosnia along with actively participating in the reconstruction of that country.

The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran is visiting Croatia for the same purpose to get familiar with the demands of Bosnia on the economic and defense matters and enhance relations between Tehran and Sarajevo.

Dailies Say No Justice for Muslims in Dayton Deal
LD2911134795 Tehran IRNA in English
1140 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, irna — Two English-language dailies Wednesday [29 November] editorialized on Bosnian peace accord signed by warring parties, under great pressures, in Dayton as well as the meeting of the Islamic countries' aid mobilization for Bosnia in Tehran.

In spite of the tremendous damage done to Islamic Bosnia in the past three and a half years, in Dayton peace plan the Bosnians have still remained deprived of their rights, **TEHRAN TIMES** stated.

"The Dayton agreement only provides the world of Islam and Bosnian Muslims with the hope that further bloodshed would be prevented," it wrote.

Whatever the Dayton agreement may be, it has been signed by the leaders of the involved parties, it wrote, therefore, it must be respected otherwise, the cessation of bloodshed, which has been the main goal, will not be achieved.

Guarantees are called for so that, after the completion of this agreement, there would be no opportunity for further aggression by neighbors on the oppressed Bosnians, the article stressed.

It reiterated that protecting the rights of Bosnian Muslims who have been the main victims of the crime of the century should entail the prevention of further aggression by neighbors.

Regional inhabitants should distinguish between the true supporters of peace and those who, based on any pretext, would turn the region into their military base, **TEHRAN TIMES** added.

It concluded by hoping that the shaky Dayton plan would transform into a stable peace, along with coexistence.

Another daily, **KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL** denounced the Dayton agreement adding, "the U.S., the self-appointed policeman, intervened in the Bosnian peace talks and imposed the 'peace' plan on Bosnia just as it did in case of Palestinian Muslims."

Commenting on tremendous suffering of the Bosnian people as a result of Serbian atrocities, it underlined that it is rightly expected by the entire world that regardless of political considerations, the perpetrators of such genocide and grave crimes against humanity and violators of international law should be brought to justice as soon as possible.

However, it noted, contrary to the expectations, the Dayton accord seems to dispel the notion that major war criminals in former Yugoslavia will be brought to justice by the U.N. tribunal.

The peace accord only says those indicted by the tribunal may not hold political or military office, a clause obviously aimed at twice indicted Bosnian Serb rebel Radovan Karadzic and his notorious military commander Ratko Mladic, both well-known architects of the ethnic terror campaign of murder, torture and expulsion of Bosnian Muslims from Serb-occupied lands, the paper noted.

"The accord with its shortcomings will not bring peace to the Balkans nor justice to the Bosnian Muslims," it commented concluding that efforts should be made to implement a peace accord which will not only guarantee the sovereignty and integrity of Bosnia itself but also establish peace and tranquility in the region.

Hungarian Official Cites Readiness To Expand Ties
LD2811214195 Tehran IRNA in English
1658 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Nov 28 (IRNA) — Iran's Ambassador to Hungary, Abdol Reza Faraji, exchanged views on promotion of bilateral relations with Hungarian Foreign Minister, Laszlo Kovacs, in Budapest Tuesday [28 November].

Kovacs, expressing readiness for expansion of economic, political and cultural ties with Iran, also stressed the need for safeguarding security in the Persian Gulf.

He further referred to Iran's major political/historic role in the region and emphasized Iran's priority for his government.

Official Comments on Upcoming Tajik Peace Talks
LD3011094995 Tehran IRNA in English
0719 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 30, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official here Wednesday [29 November] underlined the importance of peace talks by the warring Tajik parties and hoped that they would sit down and agree on a long lost peace.

Director general of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) department at Foreign Ministry 'Ali Majedi said in an exclusive interview with the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' that the Tajik turmoil is an internal matter and the people and government in Dushanbe should settle it themselves.

The negotiations are to start in Ashgabat on Thursday.

Majedi said that regional countries and other mediators may just provide the necessary grounds for the agreement.

He added that the negotiations would take a long time as the United Nations expects that Ashgabat parleys should be the last.

Referring to talks held in Kabul last August, Majedi said that the warring parties signed a peace plan containing six articles and now they are expected to set a final seal on that plan for its implementation.

The six-article peace plan demands that political parties should be recognized and should be given their due share in the government. also, refugees should be allowed to return home.

Tajik Government First Deputy Prime Minister Mahmadsaid Ubaydullayev and opposition leader 'Ali Akbar Turjanzade, who is also vice-chairman of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, will lead their delegations at the talks.

Representatives from Iran, Pakistan, Russia and the United Nations will also take part in the negotiations as observers.

"It will be to the interest of no one if the Tajik turmoil is prolonged," Majedi said adding that if any early solution is not found, problems in the Central Asian republic will be compounded.

He added that it was the best opportunity for the warring parties, who should make use of it to iron out their differences.

He concluded that Iran and Russia were playing crucial role in the talks.

Minister From Guinea Meets Rafsanjani, Velayati
LD2811222195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr Facinet Fofana, minister of mines and geology of the Republic of Guinea, was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today and submitted a written message from Mr Lansana Conte, the president of that country.

According to the Central News Unit, at the meeting, he expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist construction in Guinea, especially the reconstruction of that country's railway, and said: Guinea's economy is growing and, in view of Iran's considerable technical-industrial progress in recent years, we hope that the joint project for producing aluminum and other technical and commercial projects on bilateral cooperation will be pursued with a greater speed. The Guinean minister of mines and geology also informed the president about his country's decision to open an embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the consolidation of ties between Iran and Guinea and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches particular importance to the establishment and expansion of relations with Muslim African countries and it is willing to increase its ties with these countries in the field of infrastructural and fundamental cooperation. The president referred to the rich bauxite mines in Guinea and the plentiful reserves of gas in Iran and described them as complementary resources for carrying out a joint project for producing aluminium in the two countries. He said: With the identification of the framework for bilateral cooperation, the level of future relations between Iran and Guinea in areas of mutual interest may be increased.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1440 GMT on 28 November carries the following in a related item:

["The visiting Guinean Minister of Mine and Metal Industries Facinet Fofana met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here on Tuesday [28 November]. In the meeting, the Guinean minister, thanked Iran for its 'constructive and effective' help to Guinea in hosting a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to be held next week.

["He also hailed Iran's progress in mine and industry sectors and said the two countries could have long-term cooperation in steel and aluminium production given Iran's energy resources and know-how in this respect and Guinea's abundant bauxite and iron ore deposits.

["Velayati for his part said that cooperatoin with Islamic and Third World countries is among top priorities of Iran's foreign policy and that Tehran is ready to engage in long term cooperation with Conakry. He also termed the forthcoming meeting of the OIC foreign ministers as highly important with effective results in solving the problems facing the Muslim world."]

Signs Economic, Cooperation Protocols

LD2811183195 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1630 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Guinea have signed three cooperation protocols.

Under the protocols signed by our country's minister of mines and metals and the Guinean minister of mines and geology the two countries will cooperate in the spheres of economic and technical studies and the construction of an aluminum company and a railroad line.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Hails Role of Basij

LD2911154895 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1431 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA — Leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, here Wednesday [29 November] said that Basij is a deeply-rooted ideological and Islamic establishment. Addressing a large group of commanders of the Basij (volunteer) forces, the leader of the Islamic revolution added that the Basij forces are in conformity with the present needs of the world of Islam and the Islamic community.

The leader stressed the role of Basij in eliminating enormous catastrophes threatening the Islamic world. The grand ayatollah underlined the need for keeping alive the name and spirit of Basij in the society. Ayatollah Khamene'i said that Basij owes its strength to the dedicated and committed youths at schools, universities, and other institutions in towns and villages.

Commander-in-chief of the armed forces further told the visitors that Basij is a genuine popular movement formed particularly by the youth whose hearts are gleaming with the light of spirituality and truth. The leader added that separation of governments from people in most Islamic countries is a massive decline with enormous impact on the fate of Muslim nations.

In many Islamic countries there is no emotional link between the state and the people and whenever these governments find themselves in a shaky position they

resort to big powers and become a stooge in the hands of the U.S. and other global powers.

Ayatollah Khamene'i deplored the condition of the Muslim youths entrapped in corruption and blamed the U.S. and Europe for being the source of corruption prevailing over the Islamic countries.

"In no period of history can we remember the youths being indulged in so much corruption in the world," Ayatollah Khamene'i regretted.

The leader pointed out that this state of affairs strip the youths of the ability to reflect on religion, faith, spirituality and politics. Fortunately the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, removed this "corruption-breeding tumor" through a nationwide mobilization (Basij) of the people in Iran, said the leader.

Commander-in-chief of the armed forces hinted at the strong brotherly link between the people and officials and said in the light of this sincere relationship today all governments and political personalities of the world are amazed at the courageous stands of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of the U.S. dictations and imperialist bullyings.

"Thanks to good mutual relationship between the people and the islamic system and presence of Basij across the country, today the majesty of the Islamic system and sovereignty of religion have been admitted by the world," the leader pointed out.

The grand ayatollah described Basiji as one who cares for Islamic values, who is humble before God, who wants to be righteous and pure, who keeps away from moral evils, who struggles diligently for development of his country and for emanicipation of mankind from discrimination and injustice."

Rafsanjani Scorns Ignoring Domestic Capabilities

LD2511105095 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0943 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 25, IRNA — The importation of foreign technology and employment of foreign experts, while overlooking domestic capabilities, is the worst kind of development, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated here Saturday [25 November].

Addressing the conference on upgrading of the quality of public education which opened here Saturday, Rafsanjani said that manpower is the main pivot in the country's development and that permanent development would not be possible without paying serious attention to the manpower resource.

Development and reconstruction might be slow with the use of domestic facilities and resources, but this would be better, he said than attaining rapid growth but relying on foreign resources.

Iran is very rich in human and financial resources and what is needed is to explore ways of making optimum use of such abundant facilities, the president noted. He continued by saying that after the triumph of the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, especially following the eight-year Iraqi imposed war (1980-88), a historical opportunity has been presented to the Iranian nation enabling it to build a country that addresses all aspects, especially in the areas of culture and humanity.

Citing the acknowledgements of international organizations of the eye-catching developments in the country in the field of education, Rafsanjani said Iran is on the threshold of creating a new civilization for the world via the rich Islamic civilization. Education is a main access to the apex of development, he pointed, adding that Iranian experts and scientists should take advantage of the momentum that was generated by the first five-year economic development plan (1989-1994). The president termed the access to education of about 97 percent of Iranian children in recent years as an 'honorable' move.

About 1,600 Iranian and foreign experts and scientists are attending the three-day gathering, which is co-sponsored by the Education Ministry, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO).

Editorial Hails Rafsanjani's Visit to Kordestan

NC3011033795 *Tehran RESALAT in Persian*
20 Nov 95 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by 'Abbas Darvish-Tavangar: "An Epic Welcome for the Commander of Reconstruction"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Dismemberment" has always been one of the tools and maneuvers used by world arrogance to achieve "domination," to gain a "foothold," and to "impose its policies." With the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the enemy thought that by encouraging the spontaneous generation and mushrooming of groups that would mostly receive orders from abroad and from foreigners it could create insecurity in the border areas, specifically in Kordestan.

Its help for treacherous groups such as the Muslim People's Party, the Komeleh, the National Democratic Front, the Cherkha-ye Feda'i-ye Khalq, the Tudeh Party [Party of the Masses] and the Monafeqin [hypocrites—

pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] was given with this in mind. These groups, which have today been cast into the dustbin of history, had the money of world arrogance at their disposal; and, by pointing at the deprivations in the Kurdish-inhabited areas which was the outcome of years of corrupt monarchy, they intended to serve the purposes of their masters. But the people's resistance and steadfastness thwarted all their sinister and wretched plots.

The four-day visit by the esteemed President Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the area was a good opportunity for the people in Kordestan to display the beautiful sight of their unity with and adherence to Islam and the system. [passage omitted]

Actually, one can say that with this great national show of unity, the people of Kordestan once again cast a vote in favor of the Islamic Republic. The presence of Shiites and Sunnis standing shoulder-to-shoulder and hand-in-hand at the welcoming ceremony left no room for doubt by those very few people who still dream of severing that area from Iran that Kordestan is a part of Iran and that it will never be separated from Islamic Iran under any circumstances. The Islamic Republic is prepared to pardon all those who were deceived for their past mistakes and to ignore their past, provided that they act sincerely in the future. The unprecedented welcome extended to the esteemed president in Kordestan should be truly considered a day of mourning for the great enemy and its hirelings. [passage omitted]

Today Kordestan has become an active arm of the Islamic rule and is working to reach the lofty goals of the Islamic system. What has been accomplished in the past two years alone—since the change in the province's leadership—would formerly have required 14 years to complete. This was stated by the deputy interior minister for development affairs. During this period 22 ministers and 90 deputy ministers have gone to Kordestan to observe the implementation of policies and to study and solve the people's problems on the spot. And the fact that 17 ministers accompanied the president on the recent visit shows how determined the Islamic Republic is to solve the problems of the people in this brave area. [passage omitted]

At any rate, with the esteemed president's visit, Kordestan has entered a new phase; and, God willing, the people in this area will start to reap the fruits of these efforts in the near future.

UN Envoy Replies to Criticisms of Human Rights

LD3011095295 Tehran IRNA in English
0912 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ., New York, Nov. 30, IRNA — Iran's envoy to the United Nations B. Kiaee [name as received] said Wednesday [29 November] that some observations made by a few delegations about the situation of human rights in Iran were not objective and stemmed from short-sighted political considerations.

He made the remark by using the countries' right of reply at the third committee of the U.N. General Assembly which focuses on social and cultural issues. Cases of human rights violations in countries which blame others for the same, are indeed not infrequent, he said.

The reports of the various international and non-governmental organizations categorically document routine cases of torture, ill-treatment of prisoners, police brutality and outright discrimination in adjudication of justice based on race and ethnic background in many western countries particularly in the United States of America, he underlined.

The representative reiterated that other documents report the manifestation of contemporary forms of slavery including the existence of thousands of child prostitutes in those countries and the fact that eight millions unborn children are murdered every year in Europe alone is a real holocaust in the world.

Referring to a report made by the special rapporteur of the commission on human rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Iranian official stated that institutionalization, in the United States of America, of the racism and racial discrimination is one of the abhorrent practices and an affront to the dignity of human person.

"It is a matter of regret that the U.S. representative, as usual, lags behind the developments on the question of the visit by the special representative and other special rapporteurs of the commission on human rights, to the Islamic Republic of Iran," Kiaee continued.

He concluded by noting that the existing differences between countries should not serve as a pretext or justification to exploit the human rights question as a means of exertion of political pressure against others.

Navy Concludes Missile Exercises in Gulf

LD2911215295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
2030 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The maneuver codenamed Thunderbolt [Sa'eqeh], conducted in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, has ended today.

Some advanced missile equipment, built by capable navy experts, was used during the maneuver.

Mar-Oct Industrial Exports Earn \$486 Million

LD2911183295 Tehran IRNA in English
1746 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 29 (IRNA) — Exports of industrial goods between March 21 and October 22 earned the country dlr. 486 million.

Director general of the export promotion department at industries ministry Javad Golbafian announced here Wednesday [28 November] that a total of 98,377 tons of goods, worth over rls. 4 million, were exported within the period.

Golbafian said that exports of about 28,000 tons of textiles and garments, worth dlr. 128 million, within the period showed a rise of 26.8 percent and 67.5 percent in terms of weight and value respectively compared to the same amount within the same period over the preceding year.

He added that dlr. 56 million worth of chemical products were exported within the period, constituting 25 percent of the total amount of exports. Exports of the products within the period showed a rise of 64.7 percent compared to the same period last year.

About dlr. 225 million of the total volume of chemical products' exports belonged to petrochemicals.

According to Golbafian 378,793 tons of goods, worth dlr. 19 million, had been exported within the period. The exports of the goods within the period showed a rise of 51.9 percent in terms of weight and 30.57 percent in terms of value compared to the same period last year.

He added that exports of 1,365 tons of electrical and electronic appliances within the period fetched the country over dlr. three million, an increase of 60 percent and 48.9 percent in terms of weight and value respectively compared to the same period over the preceding year.

Saeedlu [name as received] went on saying that dlr. 28 million worth of metal and molded products were exported, indicating a decline of 61.4 percent and

69 percent in terms of weight and value respectively compared to last year's figures.

He added that 1,524 tons of handicrafts, worth dlr. 7.7 million, were exported within the period, which showed a decline of 4.75 percent and 6.6 percent in terms of weight and value respectively compared to the figures last year.

SALAM Column Reflects Economic, Social Problems

Foreign Broadcast Information Service Media Note

[1995 Series, Number 3]

[FBIS Media Note] The Tehran daily SALAM carries a regular column, "Hello, SALAM" based on telephoned-in complaints and remarks of ordinary Iranian citizens. The following series of dialogues between callers and the paper are excerpted from October's editions. These particular complaints deal with the elections, teachers, limiting students' political activities, a lack of statistical data, shortage of paper, political parties, freedom of the press, the high cost of living, and unemployment among graduates.

On Elections:

[Caller] In my opinion, Mr Nateq-Nuri's trip to Kerman was not appropriate, considering how little time is left until the elections. Why isn't the government paying for Karrubi to go on such trips before the elections, as well? [1 October 95]

[Caller] Although the president recently warned against replacing officials for political reasons or in view of the elections, nevertheless during the last few months, the administrators of the Voice and Vision [Iran's Radio and Television] have been shuffled around and new faces have been appointed. Appointments of new Voice and Vision administrators, brought in from outside into Sari, Kermanshah, Mashhad, Khuzestan and Shahr-e Kord are cases in point. [1 October 95]

[Caller] Please explain the powers given to the Council of Guardians by the 4th Majles. By the way, the Council of Guardians has instructed that candidates who were denied eligibility for the 4th Majles cannot participate in the 5th Majles. Which particular directive gives the Council of Guardians this power?

[SALAM] The rumor is that the Council of Guardians has announced that if those who were deemed ineligible for the last Majles were to register this time, there would be no need for reexamining them; they would be rejected. Of course, we have not found a good reason so far for this directive. [8 October 95]

[Caller] People around the world get to know candidates for office by learning about their programs and their ideas through the parties backing those candidates. How is it possible for us, in our country, to gain that knowledge with a week or two of election advertisements and a few words written under the candidates' pictures? [2 October 95]

[Caller] It would be a good idea to provide an opportunity to express their views publicly to those who, either out of indifference or political difficulties refuse to participate in the elections.

[SALAM] Not only is it a good idea but it is also necessary. If differing and opposing views, especially from minorities and those opposed to individuals in power, are not expressed, our elections will have no meaning. One reason for the indifference felt by some political groups might be the unfavorable atmosphere created for expressing opposing views. The cost of expressing a dissenting opinion is often dishonor and loss of personal security. [9 October 95]

[Caller] The guidelines dictating the 5th round of elections would probably send the same representatives back to the Majles. Apparently, the elections are not as free as claimed.

[SALAM] We believe the more people who are eligible to participate and who earn people's admiration actually take part in the elections, the better the chance of eliminating the hurdles barring free elections. [11 October 95]

[Caller] What is the use of people participating in the elections since the winners are clear, even now.

[SALAM] Although the right wing has taken advantage of all legal and illegal means to succeed, one should not assume their certain success. If everybody were to participate seriously in the elections, the equilibrium could change. Lately, there has been evidence of activities by the new right that might invigorate the elections a little. Of course, there has not been any real move by the left wing yet. A new group is taking shape from the ghost of the left wing. [11 October 95]

[Caller] Note this sentence: "In the future, the public will vote for the candidates of the Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez [the Combatant Clergy]." This was said by Seyyed Reza Zavarei, jurist on the Council of Guardians. How can one claim that the Council of Guardians does not favor any group in the elections? [14 October 95]

On Political Parties:

[Caller] Why don't we have the right to form a political party for 60 million people after 17 years? Are 60 billion Iranians less important than 3 million Swiss who have several active parties?

[SALAM] If a single party were to be formed for 60 million people, then it were better that it not be formed. One-party systems result in nothing more than harsh and ruthless dictatorship. It is unlikely, however, that this reader has tried and been prevented from forming a party. If you have found a hurdle other than the legal framework, let us know. We will do all in our pen's power to help. [4 October 95]

[Caller] In meeting with security and intelligence officials, Mr. Nateq-Nuri told them to forget about settling personal accounts. I think Mr. Nateq-Nuri should give this advice to his fellow right-wingers first, because they deal badly with many people due to their privileged positions. This is so true that even the president has commented on it. It would not be a bad idea to visit ministries and organizations to see what has been done in the last 4 years to the rival wing. [14 October 95]

On Situation of Teachers:

[Caller] I am a teacher. Not long ago one of my colleagues had a heart attack due to overwork. Why is a teacher forced to work 70 hours a week instead of 24 to earn a living? Considering that a third of Majles deputies are teachers, why do they pay no attention to the difficulties of this hard-working class of people? [9 October 95]

On Limiting Students' Political Activities:

[Caller] I am a student. Our goals when we entered the university was not limited to obtaining a diploma. We wanted to participate in political and social activities. The only thing lacking at the university, however, is political activity. The activities of Islamic Organizations are limited to clipping interesting news items from newspapers. [11 October 95]

On Lack of Statistical Data:

[Caller] Why don't you write about the outbreak of cholera and the number of deaths it has caused?

[SALAM] We have repeatedly mentioned that our country suffers deeply from a lack of statistical data. Not only does our Health Ministry not have an accurate count of the number of people afflicted with cholera, but it is also unlikely that it possesses precise statistics on other diseases. This is exactly what creates a great deal of problems in regard to the country's health planning.

This is true here, while some countries track numbers of pregnant dogs and cats. [3 October 95]

On Shortage of Paper:

[Caller] I disagree with the reader who suggested that newspapers publish blank pages once a week [for students to take notes on]. It is preferable for students to give up a notebook page instead, since newspapers are a source of information and it would be sad to close them down.

[SALAM] Thank you. Of course, we do not have our eye on our students' notebooks but only expect the government to assist us in procuring paper and other printing materials. [3 October 95]

On Freedom of the Press:

[Caller] What type of freedom is it when all papers print the same news? What is the role of the reporter? If all papers print the same thing, we only need one morning and one evening newspaper.

[SALAM] This criticism regarding news is well taken. One reason for the shortage of reporters across the country is due to constant financial problems. The other problem is that, unfortunately, reporters are not free to report events as they see and unravel them. The authorities themselves formulate the news and give it to the print media, radio and television. We, because of the excellent relationship we enjoy with our readers, receive some of our news through telephone calls, which we print if we can substantiate them. While we thank our readers, we invite them to cooperate with us more closely. This aside, there are fundamental differences among newspapers, depending on their leanings, regarding the many problems of our society and concerning domestic and foreign affairs. Finally, reducing the number of newspapers, not only would not help, it would even exacerbate the problem. If the newspapers grow in number, however, they will finally break the mold and eliminate cliches in order to attain higher ideals, if only to attract and keep readers. At that time, the ruling masters will have more difficulty placing limitations on newspapers. [4 October 95]

On High Cost of Living:

[Caller] Who uses motorcycles in this country, billionaires or the deprived class? Is this why motorcycles sell for 150,000 and two tires for 20,000 tumans?

[SALAM] Unfortunately, in spite of all the propaganda about combating high prices, practically all consumer goods, whether food, clothing or household goods, have risen. As the public knows, although the cost of official

foreign exchange has stabilized at 300 tumans and the unofficial one at 400 tumans, the prices of items have risen to the level when the dollar was 700. It is probably still rising. As we explained in several articles, a rise in price does not have much to do with the cost of foreign exchange. The most important reason for price rises is the unpredictable value of money in the hands of people. [7 October 95]

On Unemployment of Graduates:

[Caller] The minister of education's announcement that 70 percent of university graduates in human sciences are unemployed is very troubling. This figure does not even reflect the unemployed graduates of the Free University. We have a great many unemployed graduates and yet, there is a shortage of skilled labor in certain parts of the country. The source of this weakness should be sought in the macro-management of educational affairs. Why are numerous universities established without giving a thought to how their graduates are to be employed? [15 October 95]

Opposition Said Entering New Phase

95LH0248A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic
28 Jul 95 pp 24-25

[Article by Safa Ha'iri: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Lobby Moves in Washington; Opposition Militias Pursue Hizballah's Gangs and Threaten Regime for First Time; What Did Clinton Tell Reza Pahlavi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — For the first time in 16 years — i.e. since assuming power — the Islamic Republic government has been subjected to the biggest domestic defeat and has been compelled to retreat abjectly before the opposition. In the eyes of observers, this is a significant turning point for the mullahs' rule. This unprecedented challenge was issued on 19 July 1995 by Daryush Forohar, the Iranian National Party leader, two days after the incidents witnessed by Iran on occasion of the one-week anniversary of the death of Dr. Karim Sinjabi, a former National Front secretary general, who died in the United States at the age of 81.

Ordinarily, when the Iranian Government wants to prevent a demonstration for one reason or another, it resorts to the use of gangs of professional troublemakers to disperse demonstrations or to obstruct celebrations. These gangs, comprised of young riffraff, are called Hizballah, and they are ordinarily armed with knives, sticks, and sharp metal objects. On that day, the Iranian National Party invited more than 500 political, literary, cultural, and scientific figures and close associates of the National Front, whose leader was Mohammad Mosaddaq, the "champion" of oil nationalization in Iran, to a cere-

mony to be held at 'Ali Shah's tomb in central Tehran on the anniversary of Sinjabi's death. More than 5,000 people participated on the occasion. While a speaker was lauding Sinjabi's political life and his struggle side-by-side with Mosaddaq against British colonialism, Haji Bakhshi's gang, known for its affiliation with Hizballah and the Ministry of Intelligence, stormed the place after it had cut off its power supply. It reviled the women and hit the men, swearing at all those present, but those troublemakers were greatly surprised when they found groups of youth from the Iranian National Party, assigned to maintain security, waiting for them. The youth clashed with the gang with fists and sticks and were able to throw gang members out of the hall.

A few hours after this incident, the National Party issued a statement, entitled "Ultimatum," in which it held President Hashemi-Rafsanjani primarily responsible for the "insolent acts against patriotic political figures." In its statement, the party reminded the president of his responsibility to preserve the citizens' freedom and security and warned Hashemi-Rafsanjani that "from now on, he will be considered personally responsible for any attack against the people and their respected leaders by groups working in the service of the government."

Forohar went even further in his challenge to the government when he told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the "regime's nose has been rubbed in the dirt for the first time." He added, "The time of the riffraff and of the trouble-makers has gone. From now on, we will answer every blow the regime deals us with two blows. It will be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Forohar also said, "Hashemi-Rafsanjani must make a choice between his responsibilities as president and exercise his duties, which include ensuring the citizens' freedom and security, or be the leader of a gang of riffraff and trouble-makers." The Iranian National Party leader asserted that he has instructed his supporters to fight, saying: "I am telling this unpopular regime's officials that from now on, we will resist all its actions. We offer them this simple advice: The faster you leave the positions you are occupying illegally, the better it will be for you. Permit the development of a tranquil and non-violent transition process. Otherwise the day will come when you will be toppled."

Independent observers of the conditions in Iran find that this time Forohar has issued a strongly worded and unprecedented ultimatum in a manner to which the domestic opposition is not accustomed. Observers have paused at the fact that this domestic escalation has coincided with a phase in which the regime is straining under the burden of domestic and foreign pressures that are threatening it.

Domestically, conditions are worsening day after day at all political, economic, and social levels. Despite the government's forceful intervention to control the exchange market, arbitrarily setting the dollar's exchange rate at 3,000 riyals, prices have continued to rise and bribery and speculation have continued to grow. Last week, a radical Iranian paper disclosed that Mohsen Rafiqdust, chairman of the Corporation of the Dispossessed, which is an immense organization considered a government within a government, permitted the sale of two Rolls Royce cars which belonged to the shah's family to a friend of his brother's at very low prices (\$35,000 per car). It is well-known that Rafiqdust's brother, his friends, the family, and dozens of friends and relatives are currently subjected to what is called the "trial of the age." This trial concerns the theft of the equivalent of \$41 million from an official bank in a country whose population of 63 million people lives on the threshold of poverty amidst total neglect by the ruling mullas.

Clinton and the Shah's Son

Meanwhile, it has been noticed that Iranian papers controlled by 'Ali Khamene'i, the regime's strongman, continue to launch, with Khamene'i's implicit encouragement, a campaign of sharp criticism against President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, especially against his interview with CNN, the U.S. network. In its criticism, the radical press has been unanimous that the president did not rise up to the level of the responsibility in his interview and that his answers were "vague and bashful" whereas the questions were "daring and humiliating."

It is well-known that in the interview, Hashemi-Rafsanjani left the door open for improved U.S.-Iranian relations. However, he was eager to say that Iran's economy has absolutely not been affected by the U.S. embargo decision declared by Clinton. Perhaps Tehran was determined to emphasize this point when it rushed to conclude with Total, a French corporation, a deal for the production of gas and oil in the Gulf island of Siri in retaliation for the U.S. decision.

This deal, valued at \$1 billion, had been drafted originally to gain the U.S. Administration's satisfaction and to open direct lines with Washington. This is why this deal had been concluded with Conoco, a U.S. corporation. A total of 25 percent of this company's shares are owned by the Brongman family, whose youngest son, Edgar, heads the World Jewish Congress. Despite this, Clinton's comptroller declared a ban on U.S. firms' dealings with Tehran. Consequently, the deal was canceled. Oil experts believe that the same deal was concluded with Total, the French firm, and that this deal constitutes no retaliation against Washington. Rather,

some Iranian experts have called it the "shameful deal," pointing out the debilitating terms imposed by the French firm on the Iranian Oil Ministry, which are different from what Tehran has announced.

Even though Iranian officials have continued to reiterate that the U.S. ban has no negative ramifications for the Iranian economy, the indicators on the ground have proven otherwise. The preliminary consequence has been a sevenfold rise in the prices of spare parts and oil equipment and the prices of oil services connected with the oil sector and imported by Iran from abroad. This is the excuse that Shell, a British-Dutch firm, used to withdraw from competition for the Siri deal. Reports emphasize that Shell did not withdraw from the deal because of political pressures but for economic and financial reasons. The first of these reasons is that the U.S. ban has led to the rise of all prices in a manner that makes it impossible to accept \$1 billion for the deal, as previously estimated by Conoco.

What worried the Iranians more than the U.S. economic pressures is what has been described as a U.S. movement toward the Iranian opposition. In Tehran, President Clinton's meeting with Reza Pahlavi, the claimant to Iran's throne, had the impact of a bomb. It is true that the White House spokesman stated that Clinton's meeting with Pahlavi on 9 July happened accidentally at the Sequoia Restaurant where Clinton was having lunch with Hillary, his wife, and Mickey Kantor, his adviser for economic affairs. However, reports assert that Clinton had a lengthy discussion with the shah's son on Iranian internal issues and told him that he is "determined to change the position of the current Iranian Government." What Clinton said to Reza Pahlavi was, in part, "I look forward to renewing our two countries' friendship. I have tried this in the past two years by following a certain course, but it has led to no results. We will try a different method now, and we hope to achieve results this time."

The news of Clinton's meeting with Pahlavi has raised the low morale of Iranian monarchists who censure the claimant to the throne for "his political negativism," his reluctance, and especially for his poor choice of advisers. On the other hand, this news has angered the other opposition that consists of the Mas'ud Rajaviled Mojahedin-e Khalq in Iraq. This opposition has launched a "counter-offensive," strongly denouncing this meeting.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Lobby

Meanwhile, informed sources have talked of signs of lines opening up between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Washington. These sources have disclosed that the

"Iranian president's lobby," considered to be active in the United States, especially in Washington, has entered into some sort of an alliance with Hoshangi Ansari, an Iranian businessman and former minister and diplomat in the shah's days who has extensive relations in the United States. Observers were surprised to find Ansari abandon his silence for the first time in 17 years through a lengthy letter he sent to THE WASHINGTON POST. In this letter, Ansari offered a plan to resolve the Iranian-U.S. crisis and to achieve rapprochement between the two countries. In the plan, Ansari proposes that a trade council and economic cooperation be established with Iran and that Iranian assets and property frozen in the United States since the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was occupied in November 1979 be returned. In return, Ansari "advises" the mullas to adhere to international laws of conduct between governments; not to promote terrorism; not to spike the wheels of the Middle East peace process; and to release domestic liberties while maintaining the current constitution, i.e. the Islamic Republic.

Will Ansari's proposals form the ground for the proposed dialogue between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Clinton? Or will Washington play the opposition's card by exploiting the challenge that has been issued by Forohar? Whatever happens, observers of Iran's conditions are unanimous that issues have entered the phase of change, that a "counter revolution" has started, and that it may snowball now that the regime has received the first insult without retaliating.

KIYAN Welcomes Publication of AKHBAR Newspaper

96LA0047B Tehran KIYAN in Persian
Aug-Sep 95 p 50

[FBIS Translated Text] In mid-Tir [July] this year, the first issue of AKHBAR was published. Its licensee and manager is Mr. Ahmad Safa'ifar. AKHBAR, which calls itself an international morning newspaper in Iran, was established at the former location of ABRAR and is said to be operated with the cooperation of a group of employees of that newspaper. News reports in this newspaper exceed other segments, but on the whole, AKHBAR adds no new phenomenon to the daily press.

We welcome the entry of AKHBAR to the arena of the press and wish its operators success.

Draft Position Paper of Mojahedin of Islamic Revolution

96LA0045A Tehran 'ASR-E MA in Persian
18 Oct 95 pp 1, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Since the first stages of its renewed operation, the Mojahedin Organization of the Islamic Revolution, in view of its former political and organizational experience, has had on its agenda as an inevitable necessity the compilation of fundamental positions on political, cultural, social, and economic affairs. A special commission was given the responsibility of writing a draft of the aforementioned document and submitting it to the Political Council after holding discussions and exchanges of views.

What is now before our intellectual colleagues, our friends and the intended audience for the organization and the publication 'ASR-E MA, is the product of long and continuous work and discussion in the Political Council, which is now being prepared as a proposal to the Central Council and the Organization Council. We preferred to have all the readers of 'ASR-E MA and the friends of the organization participate in this discussion so we could benefit from their views and proposed amendments and additions, in order to present the document as a proposal for final approval to the organization's decisionmaking body after the finishing touches are applied and the defects are removed.

We hope that with the active intellectual participation of our readers and with them sending their constructive criticism and proposals, the precision, depth and richness of the document will be improved, and the principal positions and fundamentals will be compiled on political, cultural, social, and economic affairs. In general, the organization's positions on foreign policy, domestic policy, and cultural, social, and economic affairs are compiled under five general headings: Introduction, Principles, Goals, Analysis of Conditions, and Positions on the Most Outstanding Issues.

In conclusion, it is necessary to mention that the first draft on positions was written almost two years ago. However, in view of the rapid changes that have taken place on the international and national levels, it was necessary to review these positions. On the other hand, there was limited distribution of this draft for critiques by certain experts, and the inclusion of their views in itself required much time. Therefore, although the aforementioned document was to be given to 'ASR-E MA's readers by the end of last year [20 March 1995], this has been delayed until now.

Of course during this period 'ASR-E MA has conveyed some positions to its readers in the form of editorials and in discussions of current affairs. However, we hope to publish the draft document on the positions of the Mojahedin Organization of the Islamic Revolution, independent of the day-to-day articles. This is a duty we hope to fulfill on a continuous basis in the next few consecutive issues of 'ASR-E MA.

We now present for our esteemed readers the first part of the aforementioned document, which is the organization's positions on foreign policy.

1. Positions of the Mojahedin Organization of the Islamic Revolution on Foreign Policy

1.1 Importance of Foreign Policy and Its Effects on the Fate of the Revolution and the Government

In the modern world, especially in the closing decades of the 20th century, the growth of technology and knowledge has increased the ties, mutual dependence, and commonalities of the world. In such a world, no country can ignore international alliances and ties and continue its life while looking inward, paying no attention to international conditions and ignoring the importance and effects of foreign policy and relations.

Likewise, no government can escape the interaction between foreign policy and domestic relations in economic, social, cultural and political affairs. To these realities must be added the sensitive conditions and the crisis arising from the collapse of the bi-polar system. The world is now going through a chaotic period. The ceaseless efforts by U.S. imperialism to spread its domination in the world's strategic regions and to enslave oppressed nations, which have reached a new peak in the last decade, make the importance of foreign policy ever clearer in the eyes of all governments, and especially the independent governments.

In addition to the aforementioned general and world-wide characteristics and reasons, other exigencies and special factors double the importance of foreign policy for a country like Islamic Iran. Our vast natural energy resources, our outstanding position in geopolitical terms, especially the world views and positions of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, which have given rise and will give rise to various sensitivities and positions by the governments of the world, have made special attention to foreign policy a necessary and outstanding matter for us. In view of the above, and in such critical circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no choice but to maintain a serious and active presence in international affairs. Any kind of political isolation or building of walls will come face-to-face with inescapable realities, and the general course of world events, like it or

not, will draw us into struggles and conflicts that go beyond nationalities and borders.

1.2 The Necessity To Have Principles, Goals, and Strategic Positions on Foreign Policy

The importance of foreign policy and relations, in view of Islamic Iran's special circumstances, makes clear the necessity to use firm principles, clear goals and stable strategic policies to achieve national and Islamic goals. The lack of any one of the aforementioned elements will lead to confusion, wasted energy and resources, deviation to the right and the left, repeated mistakes, the loss of initiative and loss of the ability to be effective in international affairs. In addition to all these things will come irreparable losses, lack of credibility and the loss of international confidence in our foreign policy positions.

It is possible that the naive may believe that the lack of specific goals and strategic positions in foreign policy may itself be considered a benefit and a strength, because it will confuse the enemies of the revolution and will deprive them of the power to anticipate what we do, thereby reducing the government's vulnerability. However, these people must realize that first of all the confusion and inability to anticipate one's future actions will affect both us and our enemies. While they will not be able to evaluate and predict the government's present and future positions, at the same time other countries will not be able to give us timely support in international affairs or be self-reliant and self-sufficient based on our support.

Second, if such a situation were to continue, in addition to the loss of international confidence and the loss of the nation's position and credibility, such a policy would be efficient only as long as the opposing parties were unaware of it and did not know the place of the chaos and the lack of order and harmony in our international theories and behavior. Otherwise—and this is quite possible and feasible—this would itself become a great weakness and would increase the government's vulnerability, while the ability of our enemies to exert influence and do damage would increase.

Unfortunately, despite the importance and the crucial role of principles, goals and strategic positions in foreign policy, our Islamic government does not enjoy the full benefit of such a thing, and because of this it has suffered much damage to date and will continue to do so. It is worth mentioning that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its ideological and revolutionary essence, and in view of the necessity to prevent bad and undesirable effects from international political relations on its policies and economic, social

and cultural relations, must base its principles, goals and foreign positions on Islamic and revolutionary principles and aspirations, and it must also compile and write them in view of its interests. In this regard we have tried to write and compile our positions and fundamental theories on foreign policy, making use of various theoretical sources such as Islamic teachings and the principles and fundamentals of the revolution and the Constitution, while keeping in mind the current realities of the environment of the revolution, the government and the world.

It is necessary to mention that these positions bespeak the principles of foreign policy and the strategic fundamentals of foreign relations, that in practice the planning and organization of these relationships, based on the aforementioned principles and fundamentals, must be flexible and that various political, economic, technical and cultural considerations must influence this planning. A careful analysis of the specific circumstances will determine the place of each principle and strategic fundamental in its specific context. Although having Islamic and revolutionary principles, goals and policies based on national and revolutionary interests are the necessary requirements for any position in world affairs, the existence of skilled, aware and organized management for implementing and guiding policies and foreign relations is a necessary requirement without which principles, goals and strategies will not go beyond words and the dichotomy and the gulf between theory and action will ultimately lead to the lack of a foundation, while the conflict and confusion will remain in place.

In view of the above, the organization presents its positions and views on the major principles, goals and issues in foreign policy as follows:

2. Principles of Foreign Policy

What is meant by principles is those fundamentals and criteria that form the basis of our actions and work, in such a way that our goals or positions must not and cannot be in conflict with them. Principles are the theoretical guide and criteria for evaluating our behavior in foreign policy. These principles arise from Islamic teachings and the strategic theory of survival and resistance (not the strategy of submission and not the strategy of aggression) and preservation of national interests. They consist of:

- 2.1 Human happiness throughout human society;
- 2.2 National independence, glory and greatness for the nation and the revolution, and the existence of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;
- 2.3 Opposing oppression and seeking justice in the sense of rejecting and resisting the system of domination in

the world, defending the rights of oppressed nations and defending movements that seek justice, liberation and Islam;

2.4 Unity in principle with the Muslim world, with a desire for progress for the purpose of preserving the interests of Muslims and the body of Islam throughout the world;

2.5 Unity in opposition to imperialism with all independent* governments and nations under oppression;

2.6 Peaceful coexistence and good neighborly relations in the framework of mutual understanding and respect with all governments, nations and peoples based on the Koranic principle of mutual understanding;

2.7 Sincerity and loyalty to commitments, while preserving the nature and personality of Islam in treaties and political agreements.

These principles are derived from the basic foundations and teachings of Islam, the lessons of the revolution, the Constitution and the national interest; adherence to them is essential and beyond question. A government that arises from a religious revolution and a desire for freedom and which emphasizes the nation's territorial integrity cannot ignore the glory and honor of the Muslim world and adopt a negligent stance towards the expansionism of foreigners. Piety, sincerity, and adherence to ethical principles must prevail over the goals and positions of such a government in all areas, including foreign policy. Loyalty to commitments and maintaining agreements are the ethical characteristics of the politics of Islam in relations with foreigners. Violations of commitments and treaties are the moral characteristics of an infidel political system.

Attention to the points below is necessary in the area of the principles of foreign policy:

A. the principles that prevail over foreign policy though the implementation of goals and positions—and not directly and without intermediaries—are realized in the context of foreign policy;

B. if there is conflict among the aforementioned positions in special circumstances, the short- or mid-term strategic positions will be used to resolve the problem, and the procedure for applying principles will be determined according to the specific situation;

C. adherence to these principles must be done realistically, and not based on pragmatism; this adherence must not violate principles or principled behavior in any way.

3. Foreign Policy Goals

In addition to enduring and persisting based on clear principles, foreign policy and practices and behavior in international relations must be goal-oriented and with direction. These goals and directions are determined

by short- or long-term strategies which are intended to achieve ultimate goals. The realistic and true strategy under the current conditions in the region and the world is the strategy of steadfastness and resistance, and the strategy of submission or aggression is on the one hand incompatible with Islamic beliefs and on the other hand is in conflict with the interests of the nation and the realities pertaining to the existence of the revolution and the government. Thus all the policies of the revolutionary government in all domestic, foreign, military, economic and other areas must be aimed at the aforementioned strategy. The present writing discusses interim and strategic goals in foreign policy and relations, in view of the strategy of steadfastness and resistance. While these goals are directed toward the interests of the revolutionary Islamic government, they also encompass the principles and strategic interests of the revolution.

3.1 Maintaining Territorial Integrity and Achieving National Security and the Interests of the Nation and the Revolution

One of the most important foreign policy goals of any country is maintaining its territorial integrity and national security and meeting economic, military, political and security needs through relations with other countries. Economic and social development also depends on goal-oriented, principled and planned development of foreign relations with other countries. In the current critical circumstances, Islamic Iran is faced with difficult problems such as reconstruction and development and also visible and invisible foreign and domestic plots. More than at any other time it needs to overcome shortcomings and gain authority and power in the economic, military and political domains, and it needs to secure its borders. All of these things must be put in good order based on the first foreign policy principle, which is national independence.

3.2 Promoting and Spreading the Ideas of the Islamic Revolution

Presenting a clear image of revolutionary and Islamic Iran and presenting it to the people of the world as a model will spread the idea of the Islamic Revolution, make friends and supporters among nations and governments, and prevent the enemy from making hostile decisions. While this will strengthen and deepen the internal foundations of the revolution and the government, it will establish the idea in the minds of the people of the world that the continued existence of Islamic Iran is reliable and secure, and the inspiration of the progressive, just and liberating gains within national borders throughout the world will make it difficult for the ene-

mies of the revolution and the government to practice their political and military methods.

3.3 Creating Unity in the Muslim World

In terms of beliefs, culture and history, Islamic Iran is an important part of the body of the Islamic nation. Our enduring glory and authority depends on the glory and authority of the Muslim world. The removal of discord and differences, making the Muslim nations aware of the true benefits of the Muslim world and achieving actual unity among Muslims must be an important and unwavering goal in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the same time, progressive unity in the Muslim world must itself be a principle in ordering our foreign relations with the world.

* In our view, a government and a country is independent when its decisionmaking center is within its borders and when the government, rather than foreign powers, designs and adopts its own strategy.

Pakistan

President Says Nation Against Regional 'Hegemony'

BK2911115095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 29 Nov 95 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov. 28 — President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Pakistan is against the hegemony of any member country of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and wants all the member countries to play their due role as equal members of the association.

He was talking to Mr. Y.K. Silwal, out-going Secretary General of SAARC who paid him a farewell call at the Aiwan-i-Sadr here on Tuesday [28 November].

The President said that Pakistan will continue to support the idea of SAARC to promote cooperation amongst its member countries. He said that the population of the seven countries of the SAARC was almost 1/5 of the world and they could play an important and positive role for the peace and development in the region and the world. He observed that though Pakistan had unique position of being in the Middle East as well as in the Central Asia, there was consensus in our country that Pakistan should continue to be an active member of the SAARC.

The out-going Secretary General appreciated the very useful role played by Pakistan in the SAARC specially during the visit of President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari to attend the SAARC summit at New Delhi in May this year. He hoped that Pakistan will play its due role in the next SAARC summit at Maldivé also.

Secretary-General SAARC Yadev Kant Silwal who is on his farewell visit to Pakistan, at the tennitiation of his two years tenure as the Secretary-General, called on the President, Foreign Minister and met the foreign secretary during his stay in Islamabad. He appreciated active role of Pakistan at the platform of SAARC.

Expressing his views, here Tuesday, Yadeva, praised the total commitment of Pakistan to the SAARC agenda. "I met the leaders in Pakistan, other decisions marker and received great support to SAARC during last two years as Secretary-General."

"It is my farewell visit to Pakistan, and I am fully satisfied with the active contribution of Pakistan for making SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement) operations".

He termed SAPTA a remarkable breakthrough in SAARC. He hoped Pakistan's continuous active role in future. The organisation has made wonhwhile progress in two areas of poverty alleviation and trade.

"Trade is important to foster regional cooperation with the adoption of SAPTA, which will be operation by the end of this year. Poverty alleviation has also witnessed progress during last two years due to the commitment of the members states."

Yadeve, said, whatever, he did as the Secretary General was due to the generous cooperation and encouragement of the SAARC members. About the election ddddof his successor, he said, the council of ministers will decide next month in Delhi. Though it is a formality, the process is ongoing and hoped that the next Secretary General could be from Pakistan, he added.

The next SAARC summit is scheduled to be held in Maldives next year but the dates have not been decided yet Yadevc said.

About the amendment in the SAARC Charer, Yadeva said, it is only possible with the consensus of the member states. "There is feeling among the members to amend the charter to bring the bilateral issues at the organisation's agenda". However, he added that the forum is providing the opportunities to discuss the bilateral issues informally.

A stage might come in future when the members would discuss the bilateral issues on the agenda. For SAARC the core issues are economic development and free trade. This process should be allowed to be continued."

He said, whenever, he visited Pakistan, he received great warmth from the country and felt at home.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of SAARC Mr. Y.K. Silwal who is currently visiting Islamabad to make

his farewell call on the Pakistani dignitaries, called on Foreign. Minister Sardar Aseff Ahmad Ali.

The Secretary General express his thanks to Sardar Asseff Ahmad Ali for the support he received from Pakistan during his tenure of Secretary General SAARC. He also lauded the commitments and importance Pakistan attaches to the association.

The Secretary General highlighted some of the achievements of SAARC which among other included the agreement on SAARC. He mentioned Pakistan not only had done the ratification of SAPTA but it is the only country which has also issued the notification allowing duty relief on more than 35 commodities. SAPTA will become operational on December 8, 1995-SAARC Charter Day.

The Foreign Minister lauded the services of Mr. Silwal as the Secretary General SAARC and paid tributes to the excellent professional handling of SAARC affairs. Mr. Asif Ahmad Ali said that SAARC has great potential and the member states should take advantage of it. He emphasised that once the political issues were resolved in the region, SAARC would move at a much faster speed and would achieve tangible results.

Mr. Silwal also called on Foreign Secretary Mr. Najmuddin A. Shaikh and exchanged views on a number of important issues concerning SAARC.

Mr. Silwal, who is a Nepalese, will complete his two years term in the end of December this year and the new Secretary General who will be from Pakistan, on the basis of rotation will take over the charge with effect from January 1, 1996.

Official Expresses Readiness To Assist Bosnia
BK3011082395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
30 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Mariana Baabar: "Pakistan Offers Help in Bosnia Reconstruction"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The Pakistan Government has expressed its readiness to provide legal, military and expertise in reconstruction to the Bosnian Government together with other member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"A two-day meeting of OIC is being held in Tehran which is also being attended by Pakistan. The meeting will learn from the Bosnian Government about their immediate needs and what the OIC Assistance Mobilization Group can contribute," said a senior official at the Foreign Office.

That first meeting of the Assistance Mobilisation Group for Bosnia held in Kuala Lumpur in September. Foreign

Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh was to represent Islamabad but on Tuesday [28 November] it was Pakistan's Ambassador in Iran who was present at the meeting.

The US brokered peace saw all Balkan factors agreeing to ending a 43 month old war in Bosnia "the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II". Interestingly UN troops are getting ready to return home after having served for, a Muslim cause in Europe. They will be replaced by a 60,000-strong NATO contingent, including 20,000 US troops.

Pakistan besides sending its troops to Bosnia has also donated one million dollars to the War Tribunal for trying war criminals in Bosnia. Today it sees an important role for itself, specially where reconstruction and rehabilitation works are concerned.

Cooperation Accord Signed With Chinese Council

BK2511144595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry [ICCI] and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Xinjiang signed an accord for promotion of cooperation between the two organizations in Islamabad today. The agreement was signed by Shahid Rashid But, Chief Exhibition Counsel, on behalf of the ICCI and Wei Jiang-guo President, Shanghai Trade Council on behalf of his organization. The two parties agreed to exchange delegations of trade and economy and strengthen cooperation between them. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry will attend Urumqi Fair 96 and establish a Pakistani hall in the show.

Bhutto Views Coup Plot, Embassy Bombing, Economy

BK3011115195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called upon writers and intellectuals to reaffirm their resolve to work together and proclaim universal brotherhood of man, support peace and harmony and dignity of man in his freedom. She was inaugurating a four-day international conference of writers and intellectuals on literature, culture, and democracy in Islamabad this morning. She said in Pakistan, the political government today does not face intrigue, conspiracy, confrontation from different organs of government as they are fulfilling their duties according to the Constitution. She said political governments cannot be weakened or undermined by subjective evaluation of gloom.

The prime minister said people of Pakistan have already seen the so-called Islamic revolution when the

pristine name of the last message of God was exploited by a bunch of clerics trying to act more pious than the most pious. She pointed out that that period led to the spread of ethnicity, sectarianism, terrorism, narcopolitics, Kalashnikov culture, and violence.

She referred to an abortive coup attempt and questioned the people as to who these were to bring in the so-called Islamic revolution calling themselves Amirul Momineen [leaders of the faithful] and declaring Pakistan a sectarian state. She said they wanted to murder the president, the prime minister, chief of Army Staff, and elite corps of Pakistan armed forces. She said they were prepared to break their solemn oath to guard the country, sending judges back home, appointing their agents in the so-called Shariat courts. She said they were a small group of power hungry adventurers who would have plunged Pakistan into a civil war, destroyed the cream of our armed forces, opened to attack our sensitive military institutions, and threatened the security of the unborn children of Pakistan.

The prime minister also referred to the blast in the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad and said this has enraged the people of Pakistan. We do not expect our guests to abuse our hospitality, as this is against the message of God. She said many Arabs had come to Pakistan during Afghan war, but said if these Arabs are against their governments, they must go back and fight in their own countries.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1146 GMT on 30 November in a similar report adds: "Bhutto criticised the role of non-governmental organizations [NGO's] which she said had been set up during the Afghan anti-Soviet war with Western funds or money channelled to Muslim countries at the request of the West. These had a lot to do with 'creating warriors to fight for the free world,' she said, noting that the 'dreaded terrorist' Ramzi Yusuf, extradited to US by Pakistan in February, had been associated with a NGO meant to provide relief to Afghan refugees."]

[After the conference, the prime minister met a number of delegations briefly. The prime minister, later talking to newsmen, said the economy is quite strong and sound and there is no economic crisis in the country. She said whatever is appearing in the press is unfounded and baseless. The prime minister said it is part of malicious propaganda by the opposition against the government. She said the reports about the fall of shares in stock exchange were also exaggerated, adding that such reports are motivated by the opposition. She said there is no weight in such news stories and the government had repeatedly been denying reports about any economic crisis.]

Bhutto Speaks on Achievements of Foreign Policy

*BK2911140395 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reaffirmed her faith in Muslim social democracy, which she terms, was the system the founder of the nation, Mr. Mohammad Ali Jinnah, wanted to implement after the country's independence and the same was later implemented by late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The prime minister was accorded a warm welcome when she arrived to address the convention. [audience cheers] Addressing the concluding session of Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] 28th foundation day at Al-Hamra Cultural Complex which was packed to capacity, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said the system of Muslim social democracy provides democratic rights to the people to elect a government of their choice. [passage omitted]

Referring to foreign policy, the prime minister said we internationalized the issue of Kashmir to such an extent that the Indian chief election commissioner refused to hold elections in the held territory. Pakistan successfully championed the cause of Bosnia and the result today is that arms embargo has been lifted and Western powers have started supporting Bosnia. She said before the PPP formed its government, Pakistan was almost pushed to isolation and was to be declared a terrorist state with Pressler Amendment blocking all the sale of military hardware to Pakistan. The prime minister said in a brief period of two years, the government has not only retained its status of Pakistan among the civilized nations, but it has got Pressler Amendment modified into Brown Amendment under which Pakistan will get its military hardware for which payment has already been made.

Referring to the situation in Karachi, Benazir Bhutto said for the first time we have checked the menace of terrorism and sectarianism. The situation today stands that the government is in a position to bring all the terrorists and culprits to justice.

Addresses Economy, Polls, Karachi

*BK2911154095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1400 GMT 29 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed the resolve of the government to make the country a welfare state. She was addressing the concluding session of the three-day convention in connection with the 28th founding day of the Pakistan People's Party in Lahore today. The prime minister listed po-lio, pollution, and population growth as basic problems facing the country. She said the government is making

concerted efforts to face these problems effectively. She said Pakistan People's Party has roots among the masses and its workers are its main strength. She said the government is doing its best for running the country on sound economic footing. The country, she said, needs capital for setting up new industries and for that foreign investors have been invited. She said the government is also exploring new markets for Pakistani products to boost exports. The prime minister said our economy is progressing on sound footing. She went on to say that the damage such rumors have done to the national economy could be gauged by the fact that more than \$300 million capital had been drawn from the banks and stock exchanges and taken to other countries. The flight of capital is also reflective of the evil intentions of the vested interests who are least concerned about the national interest. Such elements are bent upon doing anything to serve their own petty interests. She said we have resorted to devaluation of rupee as the last option. The 7 percent devaluation was the minimum possible as compared to 14 percent in India and 9 percent by the former government of Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister said the government is continuing with its economic reforms in a planned manner offering incentives to the private sector at home and abroad. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said large-scale developmental activities such as Ghazi Barotha Hydro Power project has been undertaken through local resources with foreign help.

She said the Pakistan People's Party has established a democratic system in the country after a long struggle. Now, everyone enjoys the freedom of speech and writing. She appreciated the struggle of the party workers and called upon them to continue to solve problems of the masses. The prime minister categorically set aside the possibility of any midterm polls and said elections will be held on schedule.

On Karachi situation, the prime minister said that the government is dealing with terrorists with an iron hand. In this connection, she recalled that those involved in heinous crimes such as attacks on mosques and imam bargahs [places of worship] have recently been awarded death sentences. She said that Altaf Group is responsible in terrorist activities and the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] is not the real representatives of the people.

About her government's achievements on international relations, she said Pakistan has signed Memoranda of Understanding worth \$3 billion in energy and other sectors. Her government, she added, had got cleared a unanimous resolution for the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir at the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] summit. She said that her government has always supported the just struggle of every people, including Bosnia and Kashmir.

PPP Meeting Issues Declaration of 'Conviction'*BK3011060295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 0300 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A declaration issued at the end of the convention held in Lahore in connection with the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] founding day reaffirmed PPP's conviction in the supremacy of Islam, democracy, justice, and equality and expressed determination to eradicate poverty, ignorance and unemployment and upholding of law and the Constitution.

The convention also expressed determination to educate children, provide medical facilities, ensure welfare of women and minorities, and develop backward areas on more rapid footing. The convention suggested that awami [people's] committees be established to tackle crime and price hike and set up complaint cells to remove corruption and graft. Delegates at the convention congratulated the prime minister on her political sagacity in dealing with various national and international issues. It lauded the government's achievements in highlighting the Kashmir issue, securing foreign investments, increasing economic development, combating terrorism, and initiating social uplift.

The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, told the convention that her party was endeavoring to set up an Islamic social democratic system in the country which could guarantee sound socioeconomic and political base. Addressing the concluding session of the convention, she rejected the opposition's plea for introducing new system in the existing political setup and said changes in democratic societies should not take place through undemocratic means. The prime minister said that the economic condition was much better as compared to the era of the past government. She vehemently denied that the government was on the verge of bankruptcy and there was hardly any money left with the government to pay salaries to the public servants.

About the Karachi situation, the prime minister said that major culprits involved in terrorism have been arrested. She said Altaf Hussain and India were behind terrorism in Karachi. She paid tributes to the Sindh chief minister, Syed Abdullah Shah, whose brother was a latest victim of terrorism in Karachi.

Appreciating the achievements on the foreign policy front, the prime minister said Pakistan effectively handled the Kashmir issue and now the world realized the gravity of the situation in occupied Kashmir. She said postponement of the so-called elections in occupied Kashmir was a major victory for the struggle of Kashmiri people and another slap on India's face.

Earlier, the secretary general of the PPP, Senator Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed, said the party is capable enough to guarantee national integrity and security. He praised the prime minister for leading the PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] coalition effectively. The convention was also addressed by the provincial presidents of the PPP as well as the president of PPP of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, who lauded the efforts of the prime minister in effectively handling the internal and external affairs and increasing the prestige of the country abroad.

Austrian Minister Assails Kashmir Rights Violations*BK2711123595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 27 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Austrian deputy foreign minister, Dr. Wolfgang Schleinberg [name as heard] has condemned human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this morning, he said human rights consideration is a priority in his country's foreign policy. We condemned human rights violations wherever these happen, including Kashmir. The Austrian minister said his country wishes to see that the Kashmir issue will be solved between India and Pakistan under the Simla Agreement, which is not in contradiction with the UN resolutions on Kashmir. Dr. (Schleinberg) said the participants of the UN conference on human rights held in Vienna agreed on a peaceful solution of the burning problem.

Hurriyat Conference Chairman Discusses Kashmir*BK2611144495 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 26 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, has reiterated that the Kashmir issue must be resolved in accordance with UN resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Mir Waiz was talking to the PTV representative, Ghulam Nabi Khayal, in Srinagar after a two-month long visit to the United States, England, France and Saudi Arabia:

[Begin recording] [Khayal] The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Chairman, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, has reiterated that the Kashmir dispute should be resolved in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and the wishes of the people of Kashmir. Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, who returned to Srinagar Saturday [25 November] after the two-month long political visit of the United States, Britain, France, and Saudi Arabia, told PTV news in an exclusive interview here today that his deliberations on Kashmir in the United Nations General Assembly were well received and several diplomatic

quarters expressed anxiety over human rights violations in Kashmir by the Indian forces. He also apprised the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference in New York of the updated situation in Kashmir valley. When asked about the impressions he gathered after meeting different groups and personalities, he said:

[Mir Waiz] During my visit I could realize that the Kashmir problem has not only been understood, but has also emerged as one of the serious problems confronting the world today. All those who I met expressed their desire that this dispute should be resolved peacefully, amicably in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Khayal] That was Mir Waiz Omar Farooq.

The Mir Waiz described his meetings with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali and Kashmir Committee Chairman Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan as fruitful and encouraging. He thanked Prime Minister Bhutto and people of Pakistan for their continued support to the freedom struggle of Kashmir on political, diplomatic and moral front.

Ghulam Nabi Khayal for PTV news in Srinagar, Kashmir. [end recording]

'Big Three' Said To Settle COAS Extension Issue

BK2811105895 Islamabad THE NATION in English
28 Nov 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by Amir Mateen]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad - A meeting among the Big three, President Farooq Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and COAS [Chief of Army Staff] General Waheed, was held at the Presidency where the issue over the Army Chief's getting an extension is believed to have been settled.

The meeting starting at 5.15 pm lasted for about 130 minutes Monday [27 November]. According to unconfirmed reports, the COAS is refusing to accept an extension despite insistence by both the President and the Prime Minister. If that be true, the selection process for the appointment of the new Army Chief may already have started. The first five contenders for the post of Army chief in order of their seniority are Chief of General Staff Lt. [Lieutenant] General Jahangir Karamat, Quarter Master General Lt. General Naseer Akhtar and Commander Air Defence Corps Lt. General Nazar, Inspector General Training Lt. General Rana Tariq and his replacement as Gujranwala Corps Commander Lt. General Javed Ashraf Qazi.

Though no official was available for confirmation, the Ministry of Defense is believed to be considering the names of three Lieutenant Generals to be proposed to the President for the appointment of the new Army Chief. They are Jahangir Karamat, Naseer Akhtar and Javed Ashraf Qazi, the last name otherwise being fifth on the seniority list.

But it is not binding on the President to select from the three names proposed by the Defence Ministry which traditionally forwards the list provided by the Army. The tradition was broken by the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto when he chose the late General Ziaul Haq as COAS though he was eight on the seniority list. Since then late General Asif Nawaz had been the only one to be selected from the three names proposed by the Defence Ministry. General Waheed himself was fifth on the seniority list when he was made the COAS.

In case the President decides to make the senior most Jahangir Karamat as the next Army Chief he would also have to give an extension of at least seven days. Jahangir retires on January 4, a week before the scheduled date of General Waheed's retirement. The gap of seven days occurred when Jahangir was appointed Corps Commander in Multan to replace then Lt. General Hamid Gul on 4th January 1991. The latter had initially refused to leave the charge, wasting seven days of Jahangir. That crucial week has now caused the situation where he requires an extension though a small one.

Jahangir had later pleaded that his four-year tenure as Lieutenant General be counted from the day he took charge of the Multan Corps. But the GHQ had turned down his petition, maintaining the general rule of measuring tenure from the day of appointment.

But if the President is inclined to give an extension to the new chief, the four corps commanders retiring before December 20 may well also be in the race for the prized appointment. They are Commandant National Defence College Lt. General Tanvir Hussain Naqvi, Corps Commander Lahore Lt. General Hamayun Bangash, Commander Heavy Industrial Complex, Taxila, Lt. General Mohammad Ayaz, and Director General Joint Services Headquarters Lt. General Mohammad Akram. However, the had already been given extensions of six months each by General Waheed. Defence experts believe that of these four Bangash is the only one who has an operational posting.

Naseer Akhtar, though a course mate of Jahangir, retires in March. Nazar and Tariq complete their tenure in April, whereas Javed Ashraf's retirement is due in May.

The procedure for the selection of the new chief is that the Defence Ministry furnishes a list of three nominees

to the President. The list is traditionally provided by the Army, through the years it has been almost established that it is the President's discretion to appoint the COAS it may be mentioned that Mr Justice (Retd) Shafiq Rehman had passed a suo moto observation during the Nawaz government's restoration case that it was the discretion of the Prime Minister and not of the President. But the matter is yet to be decided once and for all. However, this becomes irrelevant as both the President and Prime Minister happen to be the candidates of the same party. And, ostensibly, there is no dispute over this issue. The decision is likely to be made by mutual consent.

Waheed may be the only chief who retires despite offers for extension from both the President and the Prime Minister. The fact that he has asked his contractor to complete his house before November 30 adds credence to the theory that he is not inclined to accept the extension.

General Waheed, according to sources, has already asked the President not to extend the tenures of COAS from three to four years and the tenure of corps commanders from four to five years. If the President has to do it, he should announce it after his retirement. The idea of extending these tenure is to have more experienced men at the top for a longer time. He has also held the promotion of at least two corps commanders because he wants his successor to make these decisions.

This also explains why the ISI continues to have a Major General as its chief.

The government is likely to announce the decision in this regard shortly, most probably before the next National Assembly session starting in the first week of December. The decision was said to be already overdue. And after the Senate debate, the Establishment did not want this sensitive issue to be further politicised. The controversy over the recent coup attempt against the top brass may have further necessitated an early decision.

If the President announces the retirement of General Waheed he would have little time for a formal send-off the minimum time for which is 45 days.

Sri Lanka

Australian Government To Invest in Various Fields

BK2911125395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 29 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government of Australia will invest \$A150 million in Sri Lanka in the next few years. It will have trade facilitation for Sri Lankan companies through the trade and investment promo-

tion service of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This was disclosed by the high commissioner for Australia in Colombo, Bill Twedel, who has identified many areas in which his country would be involved in Sri Lanka, especially in electronics, manufacturing, agrobusiness, infrastructure, and services. The high commissioner said that up to 150 million dollars of new investment is expected. Mr. Twedel said that Australia could help in the manufacture of concrete railway sleepers, solar-powered housing, gem cutting and polishing, sports products, and the scrap metal industry, including cables, roofing, fertilizers, pet products, and packaging. He said that one important area of cooperation would be the transfer of technology to assist the Sri Lankan industry to achieve high production and quality standards. The Australian diplomat said that the new Australian investment in Sri Lanka included proposals to set up a coal-fired power station and to develop the port of Colombo. Australia is the third largest investor in Sri Lanka with over 200 million Australian dollars already invested.

Minister Urges Tolerance for Tamil Civilians

BK2711114495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
27 Nov 95

[Report by L.B. Wijayasiri in Kandy — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minister of Irrigation, Power and Energy and Deputy Minister of Defence Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte reiterated that no room would be kept for any saboteurs, who would try to be 'cardboard heroes', to destroy the country and peace, at this hour when the security forces were on the verge of winning the battle of capturing Jaffna from the terrorists.

He was addressing a meeting held at the Police Training School Lecture Hall Asgiriya, Kandy, in the central province on Sunday [26 November], to educate the members of Civil Defence Committees in the district. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Lakshman B. Kiriella presided.

Ratwatte added that he decided to participate in this meeting without prior notice, on the request of Senior Superintendent of Police Kandy Division, Lakshman Seneviratne as it was important to protect the villages as well as the country.

There were no communal riots in Kandy other than in July 1983. He was aware of those who were behind those incidents in Kandy in 1983. There were possibilities of their making attempts to reactivate their anti-social activities at this crucial hour too.

Some posters had been pasted in the Kandy town the previous night. It was very clear who had done that. Such low tactics would never be practised by those who loved the country and the nation. No room would be kept for those who tried to be 'cardboard sandos' [as published] to destroy the country under the guise of patriotism, Ratwatte said.

The minister said he would not hesitate to send to Jaffna to fight terrorism any person attempting to disrupt peace in the country.

He said: "We said even earlier that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) could be defeated. We are going to prove it in deed this time. But we all must clearly understand that the war is not being fought against Tamil people of the country, but against LTTE terrorists who wanted the war.

The capturing of Jaffna is only the first stage of the war and not the final. Nevertheless the capturing of Jaffna will be a historic victory.

"It was with a clear vision, a plan and policies on the instructions of President Chandrika Kumaratunga that we started military operations in the North amidst criticism and obstructions by some quarters. The people have every right to enjoy the occasion of capturing Jaffna. The government will not obstruct it. But no one will be permitted to intimidate any section of the people."

Ratwatte emphasised that every Tamil was not a terrorist.

Those Tamil people who had accepted the democratic norms too should be given the opportunity to enjoy the occasion. They all should exhibit to the world that all the people in Sri Lanka whatever community they belonged to, could enjoy as one nation, he said.

Kiriella said capturing Jaffna would only be one step of the war and the next step would be to protect the people of Jaffna and rebuild the areas ruined by the war.

As pointed out by Ratwatte it was not a war against Tamil people. Even the international community had now accepted that it was a war against terrorists and not against any ethnic group. They had been able to win that reputation due to the patience of the Sinhala community, he said.

The people of this country were indebted to President Chandrika Kumaratunga and Ratwatte for the correct and sincere leadership given to the war after 12 years. The disastrous war that had ruined human lives, private and public properties for more than 12 years would end soon due to that leadership and the dedication of the security forces, he added.

Analysts View LTTE Chief's Admission of Setback

BK2811122195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 28 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader Veluppillai Prabhakaran has admitted that his organization has suffered a major setback at the hands of the Security Forces during Operation Riviresa [sunshine]. He was speaking in an interview on the Tamil service of the BBC. Tamil politicians observe that this was the first time that the LTTE has publicly admitted to military (?failure). They described Prabhakaran's assertion that the Tigers were not yet defeated as ridiculous. The presence of the Security Forces in Jaffna is clear evidence of the ground realities in the north. In the interview, the LTTE leader had made the withdrawal of troops to their previous position a precondition for negotiations. Observers say that this statement is an indication of the LTTE's military weakness. Prabhakaran had earlier pledged that he would never permit the security forces to capture Jaffna. The mention of negotiations appears to be a major reversal of its hardline stance. Observers also believe that this is an implicit admission of defeat as Operation Riviresa troops are already at the center of Jaffna. The Tiger leader in the interview had compared the current situation in the peninsula to the one that prevailed during the presence of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. He had declared that the LTTE was able to regroup after its setbacks at the hands of the IPKF. However, analysts point out that the terrorists were given both financial and military assistance by the government at that time. They also observe that the LTTE had appealed for assistance from the Tamil community throughout the world. The Tigers are thus trying to gain the ground that they lost among the Tamil people of the north. The organization's isolation has been increasing, particularly since the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Tamil 'Guerrillas' Free 6 Soldiers to Red Cross

BK3011062595 Hong Kong AFP in English
0615 GMT 30 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 30 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas have handed over six captured Sri Lankan soldiers to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), officials said Thursday [30 November].

The men arrived at the government-held northeastern port of Trincomalee on an ICRC escorted ship coming from the rebel-held port of Point Pedro, in the northern peninsula of Jaffna, the officials said.

It was not immediately clear when the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), captured the six soldiers. The LTTE is known to be holding dozens of security personnel.

The releases came as the military launched a major onslaught against the rebels in Jaffna, the capital of a de facto Tiger state in northern Sri Lanka since 1990.

Minister Explains 'Slow Progress' in Jaffna

*BK3011120095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The votes [appropriations] of the Defense Ministry were approved in Parliament yesterday. The motion was passed by a majority of 105 members, with 111 votes in favor and only six against. Parliamentarians of the Ceylon Workers Congress, PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam], and the EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] supported the government. The TULF's [Tamil United Liberation Front's] five members and one MP from the Sri Lanka Progressive Front opposed the motion. The United National Party abstained.

Winding up the debate, the minister of irrigation, power, and energy and deputy defense minister, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, said that the security forces have captured most of the Jaffna peninsula. Troops are in a position to move forward rapidly. However, Col. Ratwatte attributed the slow progress to a desire to minimize casualties and destruction of property in Jaffna. He also observed that the capture of Jaffna would not be end of the battle against the enemies of peace. The deputy defense minister pledged, however, that the entire town would be under security forces' control in the next few days. This would be a major step on the road to reunifying the country and proving that all communities can live together in harmony. The security forces will make every endeavor to create an environment in Jaffna which will encourage civilians to return. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]

is now holding the civilian population in the north at gunpoint.

Minister Ratwatte said that this was only the first stage of the government's three-phase plan to resolve the ethnic problem. The second phase would include a settlement negotiated within a democratic framework. The final stage of the peace plan envisaged the development of liberated areas. The minister commended the heroic action of the security forces on behalf of the president and the government. He appealed to the opposition not to attempt to gain political mileage from this situation.

LTTE Convoy Attacked; Jaffna Advance Continues

*BK3011114295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 30 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Navy went into action yesterday, launching a surprise attack on a Sea Tiger convoy off Pooneryn as crack commando units and several thousands of troops continued their gradual advance further toward the Jaffna city center.

The Operational Headquarters of the Ministry of Defense said that the Navy completely destroyed one high-powered boat in the convoy, killing four Black Sea Tigers on board. The Navy also took 10 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suspects who were aboard a vallam [boat] into custody along with a vallam and a car loaded on it. They also seized a fiberglass dinghy and two outboard motors. The Navy had no casualties during the operation, which began when Navy patrol boats detected a large number of LTTE boats moving off Pooneryn at sea around 1000 last morning.

Navy patrols have been intensified around the Jaffna peninsula to intercept any Tiger movement as the Operation Riviresa [sunshine] troops tighten their siege over Jaffna city where hundreds of terrorists are believed to be trapped with no means of escape. The Jaffna-Kilali lagoon has been declared as a no-go-zone.

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